

Guidance for Outdoor Gatherings During COVID-19
DRAFT revised by Reopening Task Force 3-13-21
Approved by MTC on 3-23-21
Revised 4-22-21, 5-12-21, 9-9-21

Data show that the risks of transmission of COVID-19 are lower in outdoor settings. However, experts advise wearing facial coverings and practicing physical distancing.

The guidelines below are for church-sponsored outdoor gatherings, whether these events happen on church grounds or not.

- Group leader(s) should briefly, verbally review these guidelines with attendees at the beginning of the gathering.
- Require those who are sick or symptomatic to stay home
- Masks are required and must cover your mouth and nose
- No food service on site at the church, unless bring-your-own or individually packaged servings (no sharing of utensils etc.); do not share food
- **Food may be permitted off-site where served (e.g., Bellevue Berry Farm). Small groups should consult with individual group members regarding their cover levels before planning an event with food / unmasking to eat, and be extra mindful of distancing while eating.**
- Please favor inclusive and accessible spaces for sitting (lawns are often not accessible to wheelchair and walker users; the garden does include concrete walkway)
- Folding chairs may be brought up from the Common Room and must be returned there after. Masking and distancing must continue while moving chairs. Wiping down chairs is optional (surface transmission is very low). Sanitizing hands is most effective.
- If the restroom must be used, we ask that members use the downstairs nursery restroom or the restroom nearest the front of the sanctuary; wash hands thoroughly
- Consideration of neighbors with efforts to minimize noise pollution
- For YRUU, group disperses after youth advisor so directs
- Do not unlock the church door. Use key/key fob for restroom access.
- Please practice consent and do not touch or hug another person, or enter their personal bubble, without their advance permission. It is safest to retain 3' of distance outdoors.
- Adults supervising any small children who are unmasked must be extra-vigilant about social distancing from people outside children's family/pod.
- A kit is accessible just inside the door with masks, sanitizer, first aid kit, insect repellent, etc. Group leader may bring that kit out at the beginning of the gathering.
- Should any participant become ill within a week of such a gathering, they should notify staff/lay leaders, so others who attended can be made aware.
- In case of inclement weather, a group of up to 15 may gather in the Common Room, continuing to wear masks and observing 6' social distancing. Keep doors to the Common Room open to maximize airflow.
- **Singing is permitted with well-fitted masks and distancing.**

- A portable sound system is available for use. Reserve it in advance through the church administrator (admin@firstuomaha.org).