

Saltwater Unitarian Universalist Church (SUUC) COVID-19 Exposure Control, Mitigation and Recovery Plan in Accordance with CDC and Washington State Guidelines October 2020

PURPOSE

1. Saltwater Unitarian Universalist Church (SUUC) has a general obligation to keep a safe and healthy facility in accordance with all Washington State and federal laws; comply with the COVID-19 organization-specific safety practices outlined in the “Phase 1, Phase 2, and Phase 3 Religious and Faith-based Organization COVID-19 Requirements,” and CDC guidelines. (WA requirement #1)
2. These requirements and guidelines include all worship services, religious study classes, religious ceremonies, and religious holiday celebrations.

At this time weddings and funerals are not allowed in the building; they have more rigorous requirements.

Expectations:

Each congregation will designate an individual to ensure that the guidelines are met. Each congregation will have a point of contact person in the event of COVID-19 exposure.

(WA Phase 2 & 3 guidelines)

CHURCHGOER REQUIREMENTS

If you have tested positive for COVID-19 and have attended a function at SUUC in the last 14 days, please call your congregation’s exposure control contact person. Notification allows us to inform other attendees while keeping your confidentiality and working with the health officials in our county.

Health screening

1. All churchgoers and visitors must self-screen for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 before arriving at the church. If you are feeling sick for any reason, have a temperature of 100.4°F or more, or see that your children do not feel well, do not come to church. (WA requirement #14) Symptoms include: Fever over 100.4 degree F, cough, shortness of breath, loss of taste or smell, aches not caused by injury, severe headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting.
2. If you have been in contact with someone within the last 14 days who has tested positive for COVID-19, do not come to church. (WA requirement #14)

3. Any churchgoer who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or with symptoms of COVID-19 may not attend a service or meeting until meeting requirements of DOH to be in public. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/end-home-isolation.html> (WA requirement #14)

Entering, exiting, and use of the building

1. All churchgoers and visitors will enter and exit through the double door entrance of the welcoming room. The entry doors to the welcoming room and sanctuary will be left open for entry, exit, and air flow (if safe). Please do not enter or exit the church by any other way than the welcoming room's double doors except for initial entry through the keyed door. Common use areas will be restricted to the sanctuary, the welcoming room and its restrooms. The Lighthouse is not to be entered or used. The church office is not to be used by congregants. (WA requirement #12)
2. There will be no coffee or food service in the welcoming room or kitchen until further notice. (WA requirement #4)
3. Restrooms in the welcoming room will be available for use. Access will be limited to no more than 2 people at a time. Individuals waiting to use the restroom must maintain at least 6 feet of distance between each person. (WA requirement #6)
4. Churchgoers and visitors will be asked to maintain physical/social distancing at all times while in the building. (WA requirement #4)
5. Please greet each other with warm and friendly words, but no handshakes, hugs, or elbow bumps. (WA requirement #4)
6. Every person will be required to wear a face mask or face covering while inside the church building. We ask that each member of your family bring one (excluding children under 2 years of age). If you are unable to wear a mask for medical reasons or any other reason, we ask you to please stay home. (WA requirement #3)
7. Every congregation will be asked to complete an attendance list to enable that congregation to contact each attendee in the event of any unfortunate exposure. The attendance list will be retained for 2 weeks. (WA Phase 2 & 3 guidelines)

SANCTUARY USE

1. Services and meetings will be limited to the number of individuals allowed based on current Washington State guidelines. The number for the sanctuary is 25 individuals in phase 2. The number for the welcoming room is 25 in phase 2. Wa guidance is: up to 25% of room capacity or up to 200 people in Phase 2, and up to 50% of room capacity or 400 people in Phase 3, whichever is less, so long as 6 feet of physical distancing can be achieved between households. (WA Phase 2 & 3 guidelines)
2. For easier cleaning and disinfecting, the fabric chairs have been replaced with the white plastic chairs from the welcoming room.

3. The chairs must be arranged so that churchgoers are separated 6 feet apart. Household/family units may be seated together as long as they are physically distanced 6 feet from other people. (WA requirements #10 & 11)
4. Example markings must be placed on the floor indicating a six-foot radius to help guide members and visitors. (WA requirement #11)
5. Hymnals, books of worship, and any paper material will be removed from and are not to be kept in the sanctuary. In addition, any materials in the bookcase outside the kitchen and pamphlets in the entry way may not be used. (CDC guideline)
6. Disposable bulletins for services or meetings may be provided, but must be placed in the trash afterwards or taken home with churchgoers. (CDC guideline)
7. Face masks or face coverings are required throughout the service or meeting. Leaders will wear masks at all times. (WA requirement #3)
8. There will be no choir singing. Soloist musical performances are permitted so long as the performer wears a face covering. Musical performances that include a soloist and piano accompanist are permitted, but musical performances of more than two individuals are prohibited. (WA requirement #5).
9. Congregational singing is permitted, but face masks must remain on. (WA requirement #5).
10. There will be no child nursery care.
11. Churchgoers should be dismissed from the sanctuary back to front unless people can exit from the sanctuary without coming within 6 feet of other people.
12. Offering plates or baskets should not be passed out during the service. A plate or basket can be placed at the back of the sanctuary.
13. All persons in attendance are encouraged to leave the church immediately from the service through the welcoming room's double doors. No other doors in the sanctuary or welcoming room should be used for entering or exiting.

SANITATION AND CLEANING

1. All areas within the church will be cleaned and sanitized after services or meetings including the welcoming room, restrooms, and sanctuary (if used). (WA requirement #9)
2. Wear disposable gloves and clean surfaces with soap and water, then use disinfectants. (WA requirements #7 & 8)
3. Clean frequently touched surfaces such as chairs, tables, doorknobs, door push plates, door handles, light switches, countertops, toilets, faucets, sinks, etc. (WA requirement #9)
4. Disinfectant wipes will be provided in each restrooms so that an individual can personally wipe down any surfaces prior to and after using the facilities. Hand washing soap is also provided for use in each bathroom. (WA requirement #8)
5. Hand sanitizer will be provided for use throughout the welcoming room and at the entrance to the sanctuary. (WA requirement #7) Hand sanitizer should be used by each individual before entering.
6. Trash cans and tissues will be available for use throughout the facility. (WA requirement #14)
7. Additional disinfectants will be available for use and kept in supply. (WA requirement #8)

AT-RISK INDIVIDUALS (CDC GUIDELINES)

1. The CDC has identified certain groups of our population as being more at risk of having serious complications due to the virus and recommends that individuals in these at-risk groups take extra precautions in order to not contract this highly contagious disease.
2. According to the CDC these groups include senior adults, anyone with underlying health conditions, and those with disabilities. For more information, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-higher-risk.htm>
3. If you are a person in one of these categories, you are advised by the CDC to take extra precautions. These precautions may include staying home for the time being.

EXPOSURE PROCEDURES

1. All employees, members and guests who wish to attend a service or a meeting at SUUC and exhibit COVID-19 symptoms will be asked not to enter the church. See Health screenings above. (WA requirement #14)
2. People with exposure to a person diagnosed with COVID-19 will be advised to stay home and self-monitor for symptoms and follow CDC guidance if symptoms develop. (WA requirement #14)
3. Areas used by sick persons will be closed off and not used until after cleaning and disinfection. (WA Safety & Health requirement)
4. Attendees with symptoms of COVID-19 will be advised not to return to the facility until they have met CDC'S criteria to discontinue home isolation. (CDC guidelines)
5. For personal safety, SUUC, Haitian Christians United, Bet Chaverim, and any other group that uses SUUC's facilities will notify attendees of a service or meeting (via email with response, or phone call), if they become aware of anyone who attended that service or meeting and later tested positive for COVID-19. (WA Phase 2 & 3 guidelines)
6. In case of a possible COVID-19 exposure, all other congregations will be notified immediately through the identified point of contact individual.

7. We will work with the King County Health Department by contacting everyone who shared the service or meeting to advise them to follow the 14-day self-quarantine guidelines of the State Department of Health:
<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/COVID19/CaseInvestigationsandContactTracing/IsolationandQuarantineforCOVID19>

POST-RECOVERY PLAN (in case of known exposure to COVID-19)

1. All congregations will wait 24 hours before cleaning and disinfecting to minimize potential for cleaning volunteers being exposed to respiratory droplets. (CDC guidelines). Following that cleaning the space is appropriate to use.

2. If it has been 7 days or more since the sick individual/s have used the facility, additional cleaning and disinfecting is not necessary, but continue routine cleaning and disinfecting all high-touch surfaces in the facility. (CDC guidelines)

POSTINGS

1. This document will be posted on SUUC's website, on the board's information board in the welcoming room, and shared with the congregation via email, Facebook, Google Group list serve or by mail as needed. (WA requirement #1) Each congregation is responsible for similar communication with their group.

2. Any necessary CDC, DOH, or OSHA signs will be posted on the outside of the double door windows of the welcoming room and displayed on the sanctuary doors. (WA requirement #2)

3. Doors that are not to be used will be posted with "do not use" signs or some other indication of prohibited use.

Prepared by SUUC Pandemic Task Force (Karen LaFe, Sharon Crow, Anjali Lopez, Judy Featherstone)
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References:

WASHINGTON STATE REQUIREMENTS

Phase 1, Phase 2, and Phase 3 Religious and Faith-based Organization COVID-19 Requirements.

https://www.governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/Phase%201-3%20-%20Religious%20and%20faith-based%20orgs%20FINAL_6%2018%202020.pdf

CDC GUIDELINES

What to do if you are sick

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html>

When you can be around others after you had or likely had COVID-19

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/end-home-isolation.html>

Communities of faith

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/faith-based.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fphp%2Ffaith-based.html