

REQUIREMENTS FOR CHURCH-SPONSORED OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES OCCURRING BEFORE IN-PERSON WORSHIP/MEETING METRICS HAVE BEEN MET

Public health professionals have agreed that outside gatherings are less likely to transmit COVID-19 than indoor gatherings when basic guidelines are met. Therefore, OBUUC will allow in-person outside gatherings of church-sponsored groups if 6 ft. social distancing can be maintained between attendees or family groups and masks are worn to protect children and those medically exempt from Covid-19 vaccines. Such events include, but are not limited to, church business and program meetings, small group ministry, lifespan religious education, worship and music events, church retreats. Auction signups and the like are not considered church sponsored events. Questions about whether any specific activity is understood as a church sponsored activity will be made by the minister and the president of the Church Board.

Church-sponsored groups may meet in parks and outside of homes, if the following requirements and recommendations are met. These guidelines remain in place until the OBUUC Board of Trustees replaces or suspends them.

1. Each group should choose a Safety Coordinator who will assure that guidelines are followed. Within 24 hours of the meeting, the Safety Coordinator will complete and submit a Contract Tracing Record to the Congregational Administrator (Brenda). The Congregational Administrator will keep an online file of all such meeting reports. The Coordinator will include the name of the group, date of meeting, and the names of all attending. They will also list phone numbers and email address for anyone not a member and/or not yet listed in the OBUUC directory. The Congregational Administrator and the Safety Coordinator will keep these records for at least two months.
2. Attendees/Family Groups will bring their own chairs and hand sanitizer.
3. Attendees/Family Groups will supply their own food, drink, serving pieces, cups, and napkins. These should not be shared. Attendees/Family Groups will stay at least 6 feet apart.
4. If bathrooms are provided, they will be frequently cleaned and well-ventilated. At a private home, the host will provide disinfecting wipes or spray and paper towels to wipe down a dedicated bathroom after each use. Masks will be worn.

5. To stay inclusive, a church-sponsored group will give access to all by using online options during the activity (e.g., Facetime, Zoom, or Skype).
6. Inclusive and accessible spaces for sitting (lawns are often not accessible to wheelchair and walker users) will be provided.
7. Methods for including people who are hard of hearing and/or visually impaired, will be provided. (You could offer the ability for in-person participants to use tablets and smartphones to access sound and visuals.)
8. Participants must agree to notify the Safety Coordinator if they become ill with COVID-19 like symptoms. The coordinator will notify the Congregational Administrator immediately if someone who attended the group becomes ill with COVID-like symptoms. The minister will then obtain the list of participants and arrange for them to be contacted.

Approved by OBUUC Board of Trustees
on 5/19/21