

FBCR Update of Pandemic Guidelines

updated on December 1, 2021

The FBCR Pandemic Task Force has reviewed and updated the guidelines for the First Baptist Church of Rochester.

FBCR WILL:

- **Disinfect the facility once a day.**
- **Provide sanitizing stations at entrances.** Facilities users may wish to utilize their own sanitizers within their meeting rooms and sanitizing is required when any food or beverage is served.
- **Signage:**
 - New signage for wearing masks and maintaining distance, no matter vaccination status will be placed at all entrances,
 - Enter the building at your own risk.
 - Enter the restrooms at your own risk.
 - Wash hands before and after use
 - Sanitize hands before and after use.

MEMBERS/VISITORS/FACILITY USERS GUIDELINES:

- **Pre-campus visit** health assessments or facility user sign in is no longer required.
- **Temperature check** is no longer required.
- **If you are not feeling well with any potential COVID symptoms, PLEASE STAY HOME.**
- **Social distancing:**
 - Some social distancing is suggested for all individuals regardless of vaccination status.
 - Six feet is required for unvaccinated individuals (Family clusters are permitted).
 - Sanctuary seating provides 12' of distance from masked singers, masked instrumentalists (wind instruments will have bell covers), and masked worship participants and pastors (who to be heard better will be unmasked during some parts of the service).
 - Every other pew indoors will be blocked for added safety and distancing. It is recommended that some distancing be practiced in the remaining pews between family clusters.
- **Masking:**
 - Vaccinated individuals should wear masks when inside the building for the safety of everyone until further notice. Those who have difficult breathing with masks may receive special permission to not wear a mask when seated and not singing.
 - Unvaccinated individuals must wear a mask and socially distance by 6 feet at all times.

- **Children and working with children:**
 - Children 5 through 12 have now become eligible for vaccination. As more children become vaccinated some of these guidelines may change or be updated.
 - It is recommended that children sanitize their hands upon entry into a new room/activity space such as worship space, church school room, and choir room.
 - Vaccinated individuals who work with or near children, should mask when indoors.
 - Unvaccinated individuals must always masks and social distance when around the children – indoors or outdoors.
 - Vaccinated individuals, not in a family cluster, should mask when some distancing cannot be maintained outdoors as well.
 - Children may sing briefly, toward the end of an event, and with the congregation but should be masked and with family cluster or maintain some social distancing.

- **Singing/Wind Instruments:**
 - Mask should be worn at all times when singing/playing in worship.
 - Masks specific for use with wind instruments should be worn when playing.
 - All wind instruments should have covers placed on the ends of the instruments.
 - Singing or playing wind instruments should be limited in the length of time playing in the worship space. Before worship rehearsals must be in a different space.
 - Vaccinated singers/wind instrument players must maintain a 3 feet distance from each other and 6 feet from all others.
 - At this time only vaccinated singers and wind instrumentalists are suggested as guest musicians. Exceptions may be made for soloists or duets, if those unvaccinated meet very specific parameters which includes at minimum: wearing specialized masks, maintaining a minimum of 6' distance from all others, and possibly use barriers or other safety precautions deemed necessary at the time to protect the FBCR congregation and staff.
 - Larger group singing at the end of an event (within a short time of exiting a space) is possible, if:
 - Congregation remains masked and seated during the song.
 - Vocalists/players distance as much as possible and all wear masks.

- **Staff:**
 - Vaccinated staff should wear masks when around other individuals: especially when greeting visitors to the church, speaking with facility users, when the vaccination status of a person is not known, and when you are not feeling well or when you were near someone recently who was not feeling well.
 - Vaccinated staff when in their own offices and not around others, may remove masks.
 - Unvaccinated staff should wear masks inside. When outside, masks should be worn when a six-foot distance from others cannot be maintained. (*All of FBCR staff is currently vaccinated.*)

- **Room capacities:**
 - Room capacity will be fluid, based on the the room and group's size and the current NYS vaccination status percentages. If any group would like assistance in figuring appropriate amount of seating for unvaccinated, please contact Janet in the church office, at janet@rochesterfbc.org.
 - If you do not confirm vaccination status of your group between 15-20% of your seating, based on the expected number of attendees, must maintain 6 feet of distance. The rest of the room may be set up with moderate distancing. Percentages should be reviewed periodically.
 - If you plan to confirm vaccination status of your group's individuals, you may work with those percentages when configuring the room seating. Please supply the percentage of confirmed vaccinated you are using to make your calculations to the church office.
 - Room capacity may not ever exceed local fire code for each room.
 - There are some rooms not yet available for use.
 - Use of air circulation with fans and during good weather - opening windows is needed for air exchange rates. (Rooms with larger cubic volume have greater exchange rates.)
 - Interior doors should remain open to assist with air circulation.

- **Food and beverages may be served following these guidelines.**
 - A plan for food and beverage service should be submitted to the PTF for approval.
 - Whenever possible the use of a catering service is recommended for proper food handling through preparation.
 - Plans must address:
 - Ways you will minimize congregating near beverage or food with the use of multiple serving stations or other creative ideas submitted.
 - All servers should be masked, gloved, and vaccinated (according to current vaccination guidelines of the CDC).
 - If self-serving – what precautions will be taken for minimizing contamination and congregating, such as napkins, gloves, sanitizer stations, etc.
 - Use of disposable cups, plates, and utensils is mandatory, at this time.
 - Masks may be lowered briefly in order to eat or drink.
 - Individuals may wish to carry in – carry out their own refreshments.