



COVID-19 Policy

Eliot Unitarian Chapel

September 7, 2022

Policy Change

Five leaders in the Eliot community met on September 3, 2022:

Kathleen Brunts - Member and Medical Doctor

Steven Swift - Board Member

Krista Taves - Minister of Congregational Life

Doug Wadkins - Interim Minister

Claire Wyneken - Board Chair

We unanimously decided to follow CDC guidelines.

Currently, we are at the yellow or medium level in St. Louis County, so beginning at Ingathering on September 11, we will:

- Encourage each person to make their own decisions about masking, and if you are at high risk for severe illness, talk with your healthcare provider about whether you need to wear a mask and take other precautions.
- Stay up to date on COVID-19 vaccines
- Stay home from church events and get tested if you have symptoms
- Resume coffee hour

We base our current shared decision on our principles and values, which are grounded in human worth and interdependence. We know that there are many diverse thoughts and feelings about COVID and what is the right thing to do and that any change will bring further strong feelings. We encourage a spirit of compassion and care for the range of life experiences and feelings around this continuing challenge and that we seek to support each other as we journey forward.

This team reached a shared decision after carefully considering the science, psychology, and mission of the Eliot community.

Claire, Doug, and Krista have many years of experience as leaders in UU communities. Krista and Doug have kept up with the conversations about reopening with colleagues. Kathy and Steve bring different experiences and credentials to our decision. Kathy recently retired after 35 years as a primary care physician. She has worked directly with patients since the beginning of COVID and maintained her awareness of developments around COVID and CDC recommendations. Steve has worked for 15 years in emergency management and continues as an emergency manager for Ameren. He has a Master's degree in emergency management and works in the community advising around COVID.

Our shared decision draws from our experience and a solid understanding of the various levels of consideration, and we believe this is the right time and the right thing to do.

Together, we have decided:

In all levels of infection, we will:

- Stay up to date with COVID vaccinations
- Encourage people to wear masks who, for whatever reason, wish to do so.
- You will monitor your symptoms and get tested if you have symptoms.
- If you test positive, we ask that you follow the CDC guidelines, which currently recommend that if you test positive for COVID-19, you stay home for at least 5 days and isolate from others in your home.

The CDC uses three levels in regards to the COVID community: Red, Yellow, and Green.

When St. Louis County is at a Red Level or High Level, we will:

- Wear a mask indoors in public
- Stay up to date on COVID Vaccines
- Get Tested if you have symptoms
- Refrain from serving food or drink at Eliot.
- Explore additional precautions for people at high risk for severe illness.

When St. Louis County is at a Yellow Level or Medium level, we will:

- Encourage each person to make their own decisions about masking, and if you are at high risk for severe illness, talk with your healthcare provider about whether you need to wear a mask and take other precautions.
- Stay up to date on COVID-19 vaccines
- Get tested if you have symptoms
- Hold coffee hour in Adams Hall if we have the volunteers to do so. You can volunteer and/or ask questions about Coffee Hour responsibilities by emailing hospitality@eliotchapel.org.

When St. Louis County is at a Green or Low Level, we will:

- Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines.
- Get tested if we have symptoms.

- Encourage each person to make their own decisions about masking, and if you are at high risk for severe illness, talk with your healthcare provider about whether you need to wear a mask and take other precautions.

Members of the team are available to answer questions, Kathy Brunts and Steve Swift are available for questions around policy details and COVID, Krista Taves and Doug Wadkins are available for pastoral support.

In addition, members of this team will check the St Louis County CDC levels on Thursdays. If there is a change in level or other factors that create the need for action, we will discuss any changes and communicate them through various communication pathways, including an email blast, each week putting the current level in *This Week at Eliot*, and signage will be adjusted.