

COVID response task group report for CFM consideration July 2020

The three weeks that have passed since the state began its phased reopening have not seen a surge of cases. This gives us some feeling of reassurance that socially distant worship in the Meetinghouse could start soon blended with an ongoing Zoom meeting. There needs to be coordination between M&C, the ad hoc technology committee and property committee to make sure this is done in as safe a manner as possible. Our sense is that we need to remain vigilant for a renewed surge in cases and be prepared to cancel the Meetinghouse part of weekly worship with short notice.

We have not settled on a way to keep the number of people low enough to ensure easy socially distancing. Perhaps a sign up in advance should be instituted but that might not be needed since we think many Friends will still prefer to join worship via Zoom. [10 to 15 was mentioned as reasonable numbers to assume for this]. Meeting for Worship with attention to business and fourth Sunday programming may need to be largely over Zoom since we do not think Friends should eat together in the Meetinghouse (those who stay could eat outside at least 6 feet apart or in their cars).

There are some rules that Friends should agree to for everyone's safety.

- 1) Masks should be kept on while in the Meetinghouse and in the front if closer than six feet to someone you do not live with.
- 2) Windows should remain at least partially open whenever Friends are there.
[property committee will need to work on air circulation/disinfection before heating season begins]
- 3) For now, the fellowship room, kitchen and classrooms will not be used.
- 4) A designated greeter is the only person opening the front door and other doors will remain open to and from the Meeting room and bathrooms.
- 5) After using a toilet, the lid should be shut before flushing. Any surface touched (such as handles) should be wiped with disinfectant on leaving.
[using gloves is also helpful but only if they do not become contaminated so disinfecting surfaces is still needed]
- 6) Friends need to avoid lingering to converse indoors. We know that socializing is important to our Meeting community but it is wiser currently that it happen outdoors at appropriate distance or virtually.
- 7) While there may be a need to keep higher risk individuals away for now, setting rules about this didn't seem good to us. Friends are likely to be able to assess their own risk and not come to the Meetinghouse though reminders about risk may need to be given [via announcements, on our website and posted at the Meetinghouse].

J. J.