

M.A.P. (Mitigation Assistance Plan - 5/28/2021 update)

After plans are approved by your Church Leadership Team/Church Council, please submit your plans to your District Superintendent for review at least two weeks prior to the date of implementation.

Name of Church: First United Methodist Church of Winchester

Implementation Date: 06/07/2021

In most cases, the church's overall mitigation practices will apply to all activities held on church property, or sponsored by the church. Please share your mitigation plans below and provide additional details for any activities that may deviate from these plans, or require additional information.

The mitigation plans listed below apply to the following gatherings/ministries/activities:

- Weekly In-Person Worship (Worship Gathering, Children's Activities)
- Other Gatherings (Small Groups, Meetings, Mission Activities, Yard Sale, etc.)
- Church Events (Evangelism Activities, Vacation Bible School, etc.)

1. Hygiene

Minimum Standards: Encourage and provide for frequent hand hygiene ([hand washing](#), sanitizer and helpful signage); continue to sanitize high-touch areas, especially with consecutive worship services/activities in the same space.

We will provide for this by:

- Hosting a single in-person worship service.
 - If in the future multiple services are held, they will be spaced out with enough time to sanitize the worship space.
- Restroom facility is a portable restroom serviced regularly by Johnny Blue with hand sanitizer available (<https://johnnyblueinc.com/>).

2. Social Distancing

Minimum Standards: Proper [physical distancing](#) (recommended at least 6 feet) for indoors and outdoors, especially in public and congregant settings;

We will provide for this by:

- Encouraging physical/social distancing among individuals not from the same household.
- Holding worship services and Church events in an outdoor setting.
- Arranging seating to promote social distancing.

3. Masks

Minimum Standards: *Masks are no longer required for fully vaccinated persons indoors or outdoors. Masks are still advised when physical distancing cannot be maintained or in congregant settings where persons from multiple households are gathered. Congregations that are considering unmasking indoors may want to consider those in their church family who are not yet vaccinated, including youth and children, and guests or others in attendance whose vaccination status may be unknown.*

We will provide for this by:

- Weekly communication to congregation that masks are still required for those still waiting on a COVID vaccination.
 - Proof of vaccination will not be solicited from regular attenders.
 - Anyone who would like to volunteer with children/youth/vulnerable adults will be asked if they have a vaccination at an appropriate time.
- Weekly encouragement that masks can still be worn for those who feel more comfortable doing so.

4. Screening

Minimum Standards: *Stay home when sick; self-check in at door with [health acknowledgement poster](#).*

We will provide for this by:

- Posting a health acknowledgment poster by the entrance to our gathering space.
- Continuing to offer pre-registration online for worship and events.

5. LIMIT EXPOSURE

Minimum Standards: *Churches should try to gather outdoors whenever possible. When gathering indoors consider:*

- a. *the total amount of time where groups are gathered indoors in any one gathering space;*
- b. *the number of people gathered in one space. Please choose larger spaces over smaller ones for all indoor gatherings. Well-fitting masks should be worn and proper physical distancing is recommended.*

We will provide for this by:

- Meeting outdoors whenever possible.
- Encouraging Social Distancing (See #2)
- Asking individuals who have not yet received a vaccination to wear masks.
- Planning for breakout space when multiple activities occur at the same time.
- Continuing to offer Online Worship and other engagement opportunities online.

6. Ventilation

Minimum Standards: Maximize airflow and turnover of air in the occupied space: 6 exchanges per hour is recommended; prioritize outdoor activities whenever possible.

We will provide for this by:

- Worshiping in an outdoor setting.

Please list below any details for specific gatherings/ministries/activities that require additional information or are not included in the above:

- Any Mission Activities or Evangelism Events will have proper signage posted as well as hand sanitizer made available.
- Any food distributed will be prepackaged (meals, communion, etc.)
- Guidelines will apply when on site at both church campuses (308 N. Braddock St; 362 Apple Pie Ridge Rd.) and when off-site for church functions.