

Covid-19 task force Policy

Jan 9, 2022

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Introduction

The Covid-19 task force recommendations:

- Are what we consider safe and legal using the Alameda County guidelines
- We should not have any safety measures we do not enforce, or that are not easy to enforce. People are counting on us to let them know what measures are actually in place, not just what we think people should be doing.
- Assume there will be a Zoom option and outdoor option to participate in (hybrid) service so people can make their own decisions for how they want to participate

Where to get Masks:

Cloth masks offer significantly less protection than surgical, N95, and KN95 masks. Now that these masks are widely available, the Covid-19 response team strongly recommends acquiring and using masks with higher levels of protection. Below are two sources of quality masks:

<https://bonafidemasks.com/powecom-kg95/> - KN95 has ear loops, from US distributor

<https://shop.projectn95.org/> - Many different choices of N95 and KN95 masks

Alameda County Masking Requirements updated 12/29/2021

- Masks required for all indoor public settings regardless of vaccination status

How we allow services in Cole Hall starting Jan 9, 2022

Covid-19 Task Force Policy on how to allow services in Cole Hall

- Provide three ways to attend -- via Zoom, sitting outside, or sitting inside.
- No limit beyond standard room capacity for the number of people inside.
- Encourage people to space out from others who they do not know to be fully vaccinated both inside and outside
- Attendees should be masked inside and outside. We encourage people to wear N95 (or equivalent) or surgical masks which are more effective than cloth masks.
- We allow worship leaders, associates, and other service participants to be unmasked while speaking if they voluntarily disclose they are vaccinated.
 - Get permission from all those folks to state in WotP and in the service that they have stated that they have been vaccinated.
 - We can also state that we acknowledge that not everyone inside Cole Hall may be vaccinated and boosted. We encourage people to do so.
 - Unmasked speakers must be 10ft apart from others who are not fully vaccinated and boosted.
- For their safety, we recommend all people of any age only come inside if vaccinated and boosted. We also recommend that people do not come inside if they are in close contact with at risk people.
- Under 5 or under 12 and not yet fully vaccinated -- we encourage parents/guardians to carefully consider the three attendance options we are offering. Children over 2 years old should be masked. Masks are not expected for children under 2.
- Encourage people to have conversations outdoors, we may have a Zoom conversation station so that people can talk to the remote attendees. Board policy outdoor event guidelines can be used as a guide.
- Eating or drinking should only take place outside Cole Hall after the service, if at all.
- No special cleaning; signs posted to wash hands; hand sanitizer available at entrance
- No child care. Upon request can open Room 1 for use by adults with children in their care.
- Open all doors, including those in the kitchen, if there is still air outside it is better to place fans blowing out of some doors. Some doors may be closed if cold and windy. Since ventilation is critical to safety it should be rare that fewer than 2 doors in back and 2 doors in front of Cole Hall are open.
- Singing - Vaccinated and boosted performers may sing unmasked on the patio, masked attendees may sing inside and outside (make sure there is at least 10 feet space between outside performers and attendees)

Suggested Announcements

1/5 WOP and OOS article

Updated Safety Policy for Hybrid Services in Cole Hall

Because of the large surge from Omicron, attending in-person services at Cole Hall is an inherently risky activity, both for the attendees and for the people they have contact with throughout the week. If you are OK with that risk we welcome you. We are blessed to be able to offer an excellent virtual worship experience, and encourage anyone concerned about COVID-19 risk to take advantage of that.

We provide three ways to attend the service — via Zoom, sitting inside Cole Hall, or sitting on the patio outside Cole Hall. Our worship leaders will either be inside Cole Hall or use Zoom to connect to the service in Cole Hall

Attendees should be masked inside and outside of Cole Hall during the service. **We encourage people to wear N95 (or equivalent) or surgical masks which are more effective than cloth masks. We encourage people to only come inside Cole Hall if recently vaccinated or boosted.** Because it is apparent that vaccinated people can still spread the disease to others, we strongly encourage those in contact with unvaccinated or immunocompromised people to attend services outside or via Zoom.

Where to get Masks:

Cloth masks offer significantly less protection than surgical, N95, and KN95 masks. Now that these masks are widely available, the Covid-19 response team strongly recommends acquiring and using masks with higher levels of protection. Below are two sources of quality masks:

<https://bonafidemasks.com/powecom-kn95/> - KN95 has ear loops, from US distributor

<https://shop.projectn95.org/> - Many different choices of N95 and KN95 masks

Contact Steve Wallcave with any questions about our [Covid-19 safety policies](#).

Other WOP and OOS suggestions

Attendees should be masked inside and outside of Cole Hall during the service. We encourage people to wear N95 (or equivalent) or surgical masks which are more effective than cloth masks. We encourage people to only come inside Cole Hall if fully vaccinated and boosted. Because it is becoming apparent that vaccinated people can still spread the disease to others, we strongly encourage those in contact with unvaccinated or immunocompromised people to attend services outside or via Zoom.

The [board Safety Policy on how we allow services in Cole Hall](#) is in the “[About->Congregational Documents](#)” section of the mpuuc.org web site. If you wonder how we are trying to keep us all safe as we gather together again, please read it. We expect to continue to monitor what is safe and make changes as needed.

We also have other board policies related to Covid-19 in section 18 of the board policies document, which is also in the “[About->Congregational Documents](#)” section of the website. [The outdoor event guidelines in section 18.2](#) will control how we would be able to have food or drinks outside after the service, or for special events. Contact Steve Wallcave with any questions about either safety policy.

Pulpit by board member

In person attendees should be masked inside and outside of Cole Hall during the service. We encourage people to wear N95 (or equivalent) or surgical masks which are more effective than cloth masks. We encourage people to only come inside Cole Hall if fully vaccinated and boosted. We strongly encourage those in contact with unvaccinated or immunocompromised people to attend services outside or via Zoom. We allow worship leaders, associates, and other service participants to be unmasked while speaking if they voluntarily disclose they are vaccinated and boosted and are 10ft apart from others who are not fully vaccinated.

More information on the bulletin board to your left and in This Week on the Peak.

New Pulpit by board member

Because of the large surge from Omicron, attending in-person services at Cole Hall is an inherently risky activity, both for the attendees and for the people they have contact with throughout the week. If you are OK with that risk we welcome you. Attendees should be masked inside and outside of Cole Hall during the service, preferably with N95 or surgical masks, which are more effective than cloth masks. Please do not attend inside Cole Hall if you or someone you will spend time with is not recently vaccinated or boosted, or if contracting Covid-19 is an unacceptable risk for you or the people near you. We are blessed to be able to offer an excellent virtual worship experience, and encourage anyone concerned about COVID-19 risk to take advantage of that.

More information on the bulletin board to your left and in This Week on the Peak.