

First UMC Hampton

M.A.P. (Mitigation Assistance Plan) 6/7/2021

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 UMC Hampton
Submission Date: June 24, 2021 - updated August 10, 2021
Implementation Date: July 1, 2021

The mitigation plans listed below apply to all gatherings/ministries/activities, except where noted otherwise.

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. (<https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/when-how-handwashing.html>).*

We will provide for this by:

- We will encourage and provide for frequent hand hygiene by providing sanitizer and posting signage to encourage hand washing.
- Custodial staff will continue to sanitize rooms after group use and sanitize high-touch areas in offices, hallways, and bathrooms on a regular basis.

2. PHYSICAL DISTANCING Minimum standards: *Even though physical distancing requirements have been relaxed, distancing may still be appropriate, especially if indoors, unmasked, in a crowded public space, or in congregant settings where the vaccination status of others may be unknown;*

We will provide for this by:

- We will continue to encourage and practice appropriate physical distancing in indoor worship, through blocking off or reserving certain pews, and encouraging people to sit six feet apart within each pew. Individuals who are fully vaccinated may be seated closer than 6' apart in the pew if they wish.
- Small group leaders can make their own decisions about distancing if everyone in a gathered group is vaccinated and is comfortable relaxing the distancing guidelines. If a group includes people who are unvaccinated or vulnerable due to health conditions, group leaders are strongly urged to respect the needs of those who are most at risk by practicing physical distancing.
- Indoor gatherings with unvaccinated children or youth will observe 6' distancing as much as possible. If such distancing is not possible due to space constraints, such gatherings should be limited in duration (to approximately 45 minutes at a time).

3. MASKS Minimum standards: *Masks are no longer required for fully vaccinated persons indoors or outdoors. Masks are still appropriate 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:

- ~~Masks are no longer required for fully vaccinated persons indoors or outdoors, except for those who are working with unvaccinated children or youth.~~ **As of August 10, 2021, due to the increase in local cases and the rise of the Delta variant, masks are required indoors for all people. The person preaching may remove their mask for the sermon, and any singers providing special music may do so for their performance, replacing their masks afterward.**
- Persons who are not fully vaccinated are required to wear masks at all times indoors (except children age 2 years and younger), and outdoors if social distancing cannot be maintained, such as in a class or group gathering.
- Eating indoors is not permitted at this time (except for Communion) **for groups of mixed vaccination status.** Eating outdoors is permitted with social distancing, and people eating their personally prepared or pre-plated food.
- **Eating indoors may be permitted for groups of fewer than 25 people who are all vaccinated. Masks must be worn when not eating. Food should be prepared and served by a small number of masked, gloved volunteers.**

4. SCREENING Minimum standards: *Stay home when sick; self-check in at the door with a health acknowledgement poster. This link provides a [download of a Health Acknowledgment poster](#) that can be edited for your use.*

We will provide for this by:

- We require that anyone who is sick or shows potentially COVID-related symptoms to stay home.
- We will post a health acknowledgment poster in the entryways for people to self-check in. We will continue to make efforts to collect and keep records of contact information for those in attendance at worship and other gatherings.

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. It is preferable to use larger spaces over smaller ones for all indoor gatherings.*

We will provide for this by:

- Indoor events where anyone is masked should be limited to 90 minutes or less, or provide a 15-minute break every 90 minutes when people can go outside.
- Worship services will be kept to an hour maximum, and less when possible.
- Small groups will be encouraged to meet in larger rooms such as Fellowship Hall when possible.

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* <https://doc.vaumc.org/News2020/Ventilationrecommendations.pdf>

We will provide for this by:

- Air conditioning will have the fan running at all times on Sunday mornings (rather than “auto”).
- We encourage people to do their “visiting” outside rather than cluster for conversation in the sanctuary.

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

Worship:

- We will continue to limit singing during worship for now, with the details of these limits to be determined by clergy and music staff in consultation with the Chair of Worship.

Please submit your Mitigation Assistance Plan for District Superintendent’s review at least two weeks prior to implementation. Contact your District office for more information on how to submit the plan.