

# **GUMC COVID-19 Guidelines and Building Re-Opening Policy**

**(updated 06/07/21)**

The safety and health of our GUMC family is our #1 priority as we navigate re-opening the church building and grounds to staff, approved persons and groups. We continue to follow the latest Howard County and CDC requirements and guidelines.

Current guidelines and updates can be found here:

Howard County: <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/Departments/COVID-19-Coronavirus-Countywide-Updates>

CDC Guidelines: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/faith-based.html>

## **Safety Protocols**

For the safety of our staff and Preschool, all exterior doors will remain locked during office hours. Office hours are Monday through Thursday, 9am to 3pm. If you have been issued a door security code and need to enter the building, please use the keypad at the side door. If you don't have a code and need to enter the building during office hours, please ring the doorbell/intercom button located near the front or side doors.

Effective immediately, we are discontinuing our practice of asking people to sign in for contact tracing purposes whenever they are on the church premises (indoor and outdoor).

### **Face Coverings, Masks, and Physical Distancing**

The CDC, State of Maryland, and Howard County have eliminated masking requirements for fully vaccinated people in the majority of venues and eliminated nearly all capacity limits. However, our Baltimore Washington Conference of the UMC has reiterated that churches are to place safety above all things to protect the most vulnerable among us. Based on that guidance, the Glenelg UMC Reopening Well Team arrived at a compromise position which begins to move us to normalcy while maintaining a safe environment.

Beginning June 6, 2021:

- For fully vaccinated people, masks will be optional for all indoor and outdoor gatherings on church property.
- For non-vaccinated attendees, we request that masks continue to be worn indoors at all times and outdoors when social distancing is not possible. This will be on an honor system basis.
- Glenelg UMC continues to maintain the physical distancing requirement in the sanctuary. We will revisit this requirement when we begin to reach capacity limits, likely this Fall.

- For meetings in the building in which all participants are vaccinated, the physical distancing requirement may be eliminated if participants are in agreement.
- For meetings with a mix of vaccinated and unvaccinated attendees, we ask that physical distancing be maintained.
- Masks shall continue to be worn by all in active preschool areas while school is in session or teachers are on the premises working for the remainder of this school year.
- We ask that everyone respect those that are wearing masks by also wearing masks when speaking directly with them in person.

## Personal Prevention

Do not enter the building if you are experiencing any of the following symptoms:

- Fever greater than 100 degrees
- Sore throat
- Respiratory illness
- Difficulty breathing
- Loss of taste
- Any other symptoms cited by the CDC to be a likely indication of COVID-19 or any other highly contagious life-threatening disease.

## Receptions in Eyre Hall

To reserve Eyre Hall for a meeting or reception, please complete and submit a [Building Use Application](#) and a [GUMC Covid-19 Guidelines and Building Re-Opening Policy](#) statement. If permission has been granted to use Eyre Hall for the sharing of food and drink, all safety protocols stated herein or by local, state, and federal officials, must be followed. If serving food and/or setting up tables then the following **restrictions** apply:

- Food should be commercially prepared and/or prepackaged
- Care should be taken with serving the food; sharing of serving utensils should be avoided.
- In the case of small groups, attendees may bring their own food and or snacks, but whatever is brought shouldn't be shared with others in attendance.
- No more than 10 tables (not including serving tables) shall be set up at least 9 feet apart (six foot COVID distancing plus 1.5 feet additional room for each table to account for people sitting in chairs).
- Each table may seat one household (or a household of 1 to 2 people on either far end).

## Meeting Group General Guidelines

All groups meeting on church grounds must be pre-approved by the Pastor and Trustees prior to using the facilities. The following are general guidelines for all groups:

- For gatherings/meetings in the building in which all participants are vaccinated, the physical distancing requirement may be eliminated if participants are in agreement.
- For meetings with a mix of vaccinated and unvaccinated attendees, we ask that physical distancing be maintained.
- If chairs or tables are used, all groups are responsible for wiping down chairs and tables with disinfectant. All tables and chairs must be returned to their racks behind the folding screens as neatly and compactly as possible at the back of the room nearest the double doors.
- No sharing of food or drink unless a specific request has been made to the church and that request has been granted in writing.
- The kitchen shall not be used unless a specific request has been made to the church and that request has been granted in writing.
- Every effort shall be made by any person or group using any room(s) in our church buildings to turn 'ON' the fan setting on the heating/cooling control unit in those rooms in order to increase ventilation. And, weather permitting, windows and doors should be left open. (Be sure to turn the fan setting back to 'AUTO' when leaving the room or 'OFF' if it was off when you arrived.)
- Additional guidelines may be required at the discretion of the Pastor or Trustees.

## Building Cleaning Protocol

Glenelg UMC has intensified its cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting routine. Ventilation upgrades have been made as well. All cleaning methods comply with CDC guidance found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/reopen-guidance.html>

## Additional Resources

For questions or clarifications on Howard County COVID19 requirements for churches contact: Monna Youmans, Community Hygiene at (410)313-1773 or [myoumans@howardcountymd.org](mailto:myoumans@howardcountymd.org).