



FPC Campus, Work, and Worship Covid Regulations Update February 22, 2021

First Presbyterian Church Marietta now anticipates a gradual reopening of its doors to an increasing number of staff and members over the next six months. Patience is earnestly requested as last year's safety guidelines are progressively loosened. Great caution still must be observed during this opening process, for the good of the church and its people.

The following represents an updated set of campus, work, and worship regulations. These decisions of course could be negatively affected by the future direction of this devastating pandemic. Timely updates can be expected.

Masks

While in the building or on the grounds of FPC Marietta, facemasks are still required for the protection of oneself and all nearby. This applies to the unvaccinated, the vaccinated, and all Covid-recovered patients.

Physical Distancing

Physical distancing guidelines still must be followed at all possible times while on the campus of FPCM, both inside and outside. This applies to the unvaccinated, the vaccinated, and all Covid-recovered patients.

Cleaning

Defensive and intensive cleaning guidelines remain in place during this threatening pandemic. In addition to facilities staff, other employees must always do their part to maintain the safest workplace possible. It is vital that staff and members remain cautious and thoughtful of others with use of all work sites and equipment in the building. Members may at times need encouragement to practice appropriate safety within the church buildings so as not to share or attract exposure. Constant attention to self-protection and potential threat to others is paramount. It is necessary for each person entering the church campus to do his/her part to leave that site as orderly and as safe as when arriving.

Care for the safety of others

It is urgent to remain at home if one senses any feeling of illness. Please do not come to church or attend any FPC event if running a fever or symptomatic in any concerning way.

If possibly exposed to COVID, without being at least two weeks post being fully vaccinated, please promptly self-quarantine and seek up-to-date medical advice. If this exposure is even questionably related to a church member or staff, please promptly inform Melissa Ricketts, Director of Administration at FPC Marietta.

Staff and church members exposed to Covid are not required to quarantine if two weeks out from having completed vaccination. Those who have tested positive for the Covid virus within the past three months and have recovered, but again are exposed to the disease, do not have to quarantine unless they have symptoms of the virus.

In the interest of safety for others, upon entering the church building, one should expect to sign in and out with the front security desk staff, noting Covid and vaccination status. Were a tracking process for the good of many required, such information might be critical. Melissa Ricketts, Director of Administration and/or Andy Workman, Director of Finance and Facility still need to be informed in advance of outside vendor visits or deliveries and of any other visitors to FPC. These workers/visitors will be cautioned to wear masks onsite and practice appropriate distancing.

Greetings must remain non-contact only, in spite of increasing vaccination rates and hopefully diminishing transmission rates.

Frequent hand sanitizer use continues to be critical and it is readily available throughout the church.

There will continue to be occupancy limits for each room in the church and these limits must be respected. If such information is not labeled or known, please inquire.

Use of large restrooms on the first and second floors is limited to two (2) persons at a time. As subsequent building sections open, the smaller restrooms will be limited to one (1) person at a time.

Water fountains will remain turned off for the safety of all.

Elevator use is restricted to one person at a time unless used by members of the same household. Those needing assistance may have one caregiver along.

Any facility use requires scheduling by completion of a Facilities Request Form submitted to the Director of Finance and Facility, Andy Workman, for approval and addition to the church calendar. It is very important to always leave room furniture as originally arranged since these room setups are driven by physical distancing requirements.

FPC reserves the right to cancel or disperse any gathering on church property when indicated in the best interest of church and members.

Campus Outdoors Use

As with all indoor events, outside gatherings using FPC parking lots, green spaces, and other exterior space require submission of the Facilities Request Form to the Director of Finance and Facility, Andy Workman, for approval and addition to the calendar.

Masking and distancing guidelines are re-emphasized for the unvaccinated, the vaccinated, and the Covid recovered.

Playground use requires specific administrative approval with receipt of appropriate instructions for equipment preparation, use, and cleaning.

During approved outdoors activities, passersby may be welcomed to a group meeting only if all stated precautions are met.

Staff Lunch, Breaks, and Restrooms

Each employee and church member is reminded of the importance of observing all health and safety guidelines throughout the entire day while on the FPC campus.

Staff Telework

Pandemic threats continue for unvaccinated FPC staff. This has prompted work from home, which has been effective though not most ideal. That option will continue for the good of all for the present time. Once vaccinations are available and completed, new work plans to resume a more normal working week will be outlined by Melissa Ricketts, Director of Administration. Telework agreements will then expire. Any employee wishing to discuss continued alternative work arrangements might address the issue with Melissa Ricketts.

Staff Childcare

For the present, there will be no onsite childcare for FPC workers.

FPC Worship and Event Update February 22, 2021

It has been predicted that by mid-fall 2021, worship should resemble pre-Covid worship, though this obviously will be dependent on the level of Covid activity then. It is important to stress that with questionable unknown infectious risk in those vaccinated and Covid-recovered, and with the fact that 5% of those vaccinated may not gain an effective immune status, continued need for caution and vigilance is required.

As the overall picture for this pandemic improves over the next six months, it is expected that there will be a progressive movement toward traditional congregational worship. Reaching that point safely will require prayerful consideration, patience, and Spiritually enhanced wisdom.

In Worship, previously stated building/campus use Covid regulations apply.

Regardless of vaccination status, for the present time, **masks and social distancing** continue to be required.

Deacons will continue to ensure safety for members entering, being seated, and departing Sunday worship.

In the continued interest of health and safety, the **following remain temporarily suspended** at worship time:

Coffee/hospitality time; use of bulletins, Bibles, hymnals; passing friendship pads, offertory plates

“Passing the Peace” in a no-touch form continues.

Adult choir rehearsal may be resumed, though initially limited to those two weeks post full vaccination completion or recovered from Covid-infection. Precautions considered could include limiting the number of singers, distancing, possible use of breakout groups, immune status of director and musicians, rehearsal times, room ventilation, masking, socializing avoidance, and otherwise as considered and recommended by Dr. Jeffrey Meeks, Director of Music and Fine Arts.

Congregational singing approval recommended by Easter if no reversal in level of Covid activity.

Easter Sunday, consideration for up to three services suggested in the interest of safety and attendance. Restricted choir presence allowable.

For Easter and Sundays thereafter, with vaccination progress, **modified seating** arrangements consideration recommended. With less risk for those two weeks post vaccination completion and those Covid infection-resolved, staff, task force, and Worship Council could consider modified seating arrangements at least in certain areas of the Great Hall in the interest of potential attendance numbers. (Continue to review CDC and State recommendations). By early April, with risk factors for Covid continuing to improve, recommend considering returning to **streaming live on Sunday** mornings with no further Thursday recordings required by staff.

FPC member weddings, which must for the present remain within State/Health Department size limitations, will still require guest masking and distancing. For those in the wedding party who are two weeks post completion of vaccination or Covid disease recovered or those who have had a negative Covid test within 48 hour of the wedding, masks and distancing during the service will not necessarily be required IF this poses no threat to the presiding minister and church support team (wedding guild).

FPC funerals may be held in FPC Marietta at the discretion of the presiding minister (vaccinated/Covid recovered or masked/distanced other than at time of speaking). All funeral attendees must be masked (all) and distanced (other than family members) out of courtesy and safety for all attendees. Total number attending shall not exceed that permitted by State/Health Department recommendations for the space used.

Small Group Meeting Update to the Building Use Regulations February 22, 2021

All buildings use regulations noted above apply in addition to those listed below for Small Group Meetings.

- The small group or ministry leader is responsible for communicating, monitoring, and enforcing all FPC safety and health regulations.
- The small group or ministry leader will sign in with the FPC Security Associate before and after the scheduled meeting / event.
- The small group leader will provide the church with a list of participants with contact information and vaccination status/Covid illness history for use if contact tracing becomes necessary.
- FPC Security Associate or designated volunteer will direct entrance and departure route in order to avoid unnecessary building traffic.