

ROGER'S RECOMBOBULATION AREA: COVID & Building Updates - 01.26.22

I really wish I had a class on epidemiology in seminary! Alas, no such luck. But happily we have a talented team in place that are medical people, and they know epidemiologists, too. I will keep leaning on their advice.

We are prepared to resume multi-platform services (that means both virtual and in-person) just as soon as it feels safe to do so. The main markers our medical folks are looking at are: 1) Is the medical system and particularly acute care in hospitals overwhelmed? 2) The positivity rate in counties from which WBUUC draws most of our members.

With acknowledgement that I'm not an epidemiologist, I have some hope that we'll resume multi-platform services—with distancing and masking still required—by mid to late February. I will be consulting with our medical advisors and communicate clearly to the congregation what our plan is. For now: we remain all virtual for this Sunday's service (at 10 AM). My guess is we'll be all-virtual on February 6. Beyond that, I'm not sure but will keep you posted.

In the meantime, **the building is not closed!** We've only suspended large group activities like worship services. The building is open most of the daytime on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays and at other times (e.g., often during the day on Friday). We have an awesome drop-in, in-person program starting this afternoon that will take place every Wednesday through February between 3:00 and 6:00 PM.

One more COVID update: We now have two high-powered HEPA filter units in the Social Hall. They are noisy but will do an excellent job purifying the air. We also just completed the addition of needlepoint bipolar ionization (NPBI) air cleaning devices to HVAC units in the building that could not support the recommended higher filtration level in the Sanctuary. Ionization increased the effectiveness of the lower MERV filters. The outdoor air damper in the Sanctuary was also rebalanced to bring in more outdoor air (now 40%). Thank you to all who contributed to the Reopening fund—your generosity has enabled us to do these upgrades as well as the AV upgrades to enable multi-platform worship.

I also wish I had taken a course on HVAC and air filtration systems in seminary!