

Updated Phases for Church Re-Opening Approved by Exec Board June 3, 2021

Possible Phases for Re-opening/Re-Gathering for Ames UCC Church. Tests and requirements are subject to change over time as regulations or the virus changes.

Phase	Activities Permitted	Assumptions, Tests and Requirements
PHASE 1 (RED)	Church Building Closed. No church services, no meetings, no access to building	COVID-19 not under control, lack of regular testing, lack of adequate preventive supplies. COVID-19 levels exceed CDC school guideline of <3% positivity and more than 5 new cases per day per 100,000 population, both measured over a 14-day period. Rates are reported daily on Iowa's official coronavirus website.
PHASE 2A (YELLOW)	<p>No church services inside the church.</p> <p>Permitted Activities</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. One or two Individuals at a time who have been fully vaccinated, show no symptoms, and have successfully completed the logistics team protocol forms, may enter the church building. They should wear a mask while in the building. 2. Church-related visits by an Ames UCC congregant to another congregant at their home or other location provided that both are fully vaccinated and show no symptoms. If visits are within an extended family (grandparents and grandchildren, etc.), no mask is needed. Otherwise, a mask should be worn. 3. Small groups of 15 or fewer persons may enter the church building for meetings or other activities if ALL members have been fully vaccinated, show no symptoms, and have successfully completed the logistics team protocol forms. Masks should be 	<p>CDC guidelines permit indoor visits for those fully vaccinated. Masks recommended for meetings include those outside of family members or close circle of friends.</p> <p>CDC approves small gatherings inside for those fully vaccinated; masks and social distancing increase safety; avoid large in-person gatherings.</p>

	<p>worn. Singing, hugging and similar activities should be avoided. The person who called the meeting is responsible for ensuring that rules are followed and that meetings are restricted to the allotted time and space. Cleaning needed after meetings. Food will not be served.</p>	
<p>PHASE 2B</p> <p>OUTSIDE MEETINGS</p>	<p>OUTSIDE MEETINGS AND EVENTS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Small groups (in general less than 15) are approved for group meetings held outside. If ALL are fully vaccinated, social distancing should be practiced. Masks should be worn if social distancing is not possible. Prior to meetings, group leader should successfully complete protocol forms. If UNVACCINATED individuals are present and show no symptoms, masks should be worn IN ADDITION TO social distancing. Those participating may bring food and consume it but not share it with others. 	<p>CDC guidelines permit meetings outside for those who have been fully vaccinated. Social distancing should be practiced and crowded settings should be avoided. Masks should be worn if unvaccinated people attend.</p>
<p>PHASE 2B (YELLOW)</p> <p>Special Events</p>	<p>SPECIAL RELIGIOUS EVENTS: Weddings, Funerals, Baptisms. Weddings, funerals, baptisms can be held inside the church following strict limits and guidelines, and with approval by ministers. Maximum attendance in general is limited to 30; social distancing mandatory; cleaning before and after events. If ALL those attending (other than small children) are fully vaccinated, there is no mask requirement. If any are not fully vaccinated (other than small children), all attendees must wear</p>	<p>CDC guidelines permit small groups to meet inside. Family groups fully vaccinated need not wear masks. For meetings that include those outside family or unvaccinated attendees, masks are recommended along with social distancing.</p> <p>Those granted permission to attend special events will be screened. Time passes and/or cleaning occurs after these special visits. Ventilation such as open windows helps reduce risk.</p> <p>This assumes that volunteers are available to clean building and to monitor attendees</p>

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	<p>masks. Note: These types of events are now permitted OUTSIDE the church building with the same limitations. Food will not be served.</p>	<p>to ensure compliance. It also assumes that ministers and others are comfortable with participation, which is strictly voluntary on their part.</p>
<p>PHASE 2C (YELLOW)</p>	<p>Church worship in sanctuary or fellowship hall begins on a limited basis (20-25 attendees) wearing masks, practicing social distancing, etc. No passing of the peace, no singing, very limited interaction among participants. Online church services continue as well.</p> <p>Limited group meetings/events permitted, such as bell-ringing with permission of Exec Board; cleaning needed before and after, and masks plus social distancing rules practiced</p>	<p>COVID-19 levels <u>fall below</u> CDC school guidelines of <3% positivity testing and less than 5 new cases per day weekly average per 100,000 population in Story County as measured over a 14-day period and reported on the official Iowa coronavirus website.</p> <p>Volunteers are available to clean the church areas before and after services, and to prepare the areas by removing hymnals, bibles, and items that are not easy to clean. Marking pews to indicate social distancing limits would also be needed. Greeters also would need to screen those entering and enforce mask/social distancing rules. A reservation system might be needed to determine who can attend.</p>
<p>PHASE 3A (GREEN)</p>	<p>Church services in sanctuary with larger numbers attending (perhaps 50) or full attendance permitted. Masks recommended but not required. Singing/passing of the peace permitted. Exec Board would make determination of numbers permitted based upon current conditions.</p> <p>Meetings and other events within the church building permitted with approval of Exec Board</p>	<p>Phase 3A could begin if ANY of the following occur:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID-19 new case numbers for Story County are zero for more than one month. No cases among church members. • Vaccine for COVID-19 is approved and utilized by more than 50% of Iowans. <p>Masks might still be needed for vulnerable members of the congregation.</p>
<p>PHASE 3B (GREEN)</p>	<p>All traditional forms of worship permitted; no masks required.</p>	<p>Phase 3B could begin if ANY of the following occur:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID-19 new case numbers for Iowa are zero for <u>two months</u> or more; • Vaccine for COVID-19 is approved and utilized by 60% or more of Iowans.