

Regathering Guideline Updates:

As of October 14 at First Congregational Church:

- The Re-Gathering Team met this week and have agreed to allow eating and drinking inside the building for First Church programs.
- This change is being made with the understanding that if masks become required again, eating and drinking inside will no longer be allowed.

As of October 2 at First Congregational Church:

1. Masks will move from being required to *recommended*. This is in line with our guidelines that stated that we would move to this recommendation when Chittenden County was at a less than 1% positivity rate, combined with a majority of our congregation being vaccinated.
2. Teams will have the option of meeting in person, as long as a viable remote option is available. If teams decide to meet at the church, the best rooms for remote access are the Chapel and the Stone Room, which are recommended.
3. Staff will have the autonomy to make their own decisions about masking in their own respective spaces. Please respect a staff member's decision if they ask you to mask in their personal spaces.
4. The Possibility Shop will continue with its occupancy limits for the time being.
5. As "percent positivity" has become an outdated model for understanding covid transmission, the team is working to evaluate what new standard will be used – likely some variation of the CDC risk assessment ([LINKED HERE](#)) and hospital bed rates.

[CLICK HERE](#) for The Rev. Elissa Johnk's 9.16.22 letter to the First Church community that addresses the guideline updates.