

Guidelines for Re-Opening at Seekers

(As of August 1, 2021)

We are planning to meet for in-person worship beginning on September 12, 2021. In preparing for that eventuality, we offer the following guidelines to help us create a safe place for everyone to be together.

After consulting with the materials issued by the CDC, the DC government and the most up to date information we now have regarding the SARS-CoV-2 virus and Covid -19, we have focused on the following factors as a basis for developing these guidelines:

* The Delta variant of the v SARS-CoV-2 virus is now becoming the dominant form of the virus in our local area and in the US. It seems to be more 1000 times more virulent and thus more infectious than the original version and so we must be even more vigilant against it.

* Our congregation contains many people who have compromised or suppressed immune systems, underlying health conditions, the elderly and children who do not yet have access to vaccines. That makes all of them more susceptible to the virus, even if they have been vaccinated, since break through disease seems to be more likely for those with these kinds of medical conditions.

* Even though a person is vaccinated, they can still get and carry the virus. They may experience no symptoms even though they have the virus and they can still spread it. This means that we need to do all we can to prevent transmission of the virus when we are with those who may be immunocompromised or have other underlying health conditions.

Based on these above factors we offer the following guidelines for re-opening and meeting in person.

1. If you are immunocompromised or have any underlying health conditions please consult with your doctor before returning to in-person worship. We will be providing a Zoom alternative, so please consider that option before returning to in-person worship. Although we are doing all we can to create a safe place (using air filters, wearing masks and using hand sanitizer, etc.) worship in our small space is inherently problematic.

2. If you are feeling ill, coughing, sneezing or have runny eyes or nose, please DO NOT come to worship. Even if you think you are experiencing normal seasonal allergies, we ask that you stay at home. It is not always possible to determine if you are allergic, have a common cold or may actually have Covid-19, so please think of others and take necessary precautions and stay at home.

3. If you have been exposed to the virus at work or in some other venue, please take the required precautions mandated by the CDC and take a Covid test to make sure that you are not infected BEFORE returning to worship.

4. We ask that while attending worship at Seekers that you wear a mask at all times while in the building, regardless of your vaccination status. Please bring a mask with you or one will be provided for you at the door.

5. Please follow all guidance set out by Time and Space as to handwashing and sanitizing guidance. (Attached is the most current guidance from T&S, see particularly Number 8, Covid Precautions)

6. At least initially, we will not have congregational singing during our in-person worship service as singing has been shown to be a cause of super spreader events. In looking at the following metric for when congregations can begin singing, we realize that we are close, but are not quite there yet. <https://congregationsong.org/covid-congregational-song-update-may-18-2021/> We are also considering how we have communion, so it does not become a way of spreading the virus.

7. For the foreseeable future we will not be offering coffee hour in the building after worship. We hope that people will move quickly outside after worship to have longer conversations where the airflow is better, and we are less likely to transmit disease. (If there are volunteers who are willing to create an outside coffee hour, please contact the SLT.)

8. At least initially we will not be having in-person Sunday School during worship. Children are welcome to attend services with their parents, and parents can take them downstairs to the playroom during the service, but no teachers will be available. We are aware that this is a burden on our families, but we are concerned for both our children and for their teachers and we would like to wait until children can be vaccinated and we have a bit more experience in our in-person worship experience before starting up the Sunday School program.

9. Finally, if you have not already been vaccinated and are medically able to do so, please get vaccinated. That is the fastest way to eradicate this disease and for us all to get back to doing things in a more normal way.



seekerschurch.org
Seekers Church
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General Understandings for Building Use

1. Limits of Use

Use of the building is limited to the space(s) reserved and the purpose stated in this agreement. “Full-day” (daytime) use must be completed by 5:30 p.m., unless otherwise agreed.

2. Alcohol and Smoking

No alcoholic beverages may be served or consumed in the building without the written consent of Seekers Church and, if applicable, a temporary permit from the District of Columbia. (See http://www.seekerschurch.org/images/stories/-_sharespace/Seekers_Church_Alcohol_Use_Policy.pdf) Smoking is not permitted inside the building or on the porches.

3. Cleanup

Those reserving and using space at Seeker Church (“Users”) are responsible for cleaning up after using the building. This includes returning all tables, chairs, and other furnishings to the arrangement in which they were found. Users must clean up any papers, food, beverages, and other items and sweep or vacuum the floor, if necessary. All trash must be bagged, tied, and placed in the trash cans in the driveway. If the kitchen and dining areas have been used, users are responsible for cleaning these areas in accordance with the written directions posted in the kitchen.

4. Deposit and Damage

A deposit equal to 50% of the Rate for Use of Space for the spaces reserved by users, with a minimum of \$50, is required to confirm this Agreement, unless otherwise agreed by Seekers Church. After inspection of the rooms following use, Seekers Church will refund the deposit, minus any charges to cover cleaning or repairing the premises required as a result of the use. Unless otherwise agreed, any refund due will be sent to the user at the address provided in the agreement. To reserve a

space, please return page 1 of this agreement with your deposit to Seekers Church.

The use of push pins or tape other than painters tape is not allowed on any wall in the building. Any damage done to the building or its contents and/or the costs of cleaning required as a result of the actions of users or their guests will be charged to users.

5. Cancellation

Anyone who has reserved space should notify Seekers Church in writing of cancellation as soon as possible. Cancellation with less than one week's notice will result in the forfeiture of the deposit.

6. Advertising

Seekers Church will not advertise your event, and rental does not imply endorsement by Seekers Church. If you provide a letter-size flier for your event we will post it in the front window as a courtesy.

7. Priority of Use

Seekers Church reserves the right to preempt any space necessary for its own ministries or use by its members. Seekers Church will make every effort in this case to provide ample notice, generally three months.

8. Covid-19 Precautions

Seekers Church takes Covid-19 precautions very seriously and expects users to follow the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") and other applicable rules, guidelines and regulations issued by the District of Columbia and Federal agencies relating to public safety and Covid-19 ("governmental directives"). As conditions change, this could result in the need to again close our building on short notice. You must ensure and enforce safety, hand-washing, social distancing, mask wearing, and any other applicable requirements of governmental directives, and you agree to indemnify and hold Seekers Church harmless from any failure to do so.

Seekers Church is only open to those who are not sick with Covid-19. Anyone who has symptoms is not permitted in the building; those who have recovered from Covid-19 should not enter until 2 weeks after full recovery. Users are solely responsible for appropriately screening all guests to ensure safety from Covid-19. In addition, anyone who is not fully vaccinated is required to wear a mask at all times while inside the building.

Seekers Church is professionally cleaned at least twice a week. Users and their guests agree to use the building on an "as is" basis. Users are encouraged when arriving at the building to wipe down with sanitizer the high-touch areas in the room(s) you will be in, as well as the restrooms and other common areas that you will use. High-touch areas include door handles, light switches, faucets, table or counter tops, and the like. As a courtesy, please wipe down the areas you touched at the end of your use as well.

9. Room Setup and Accessibility

Seekers Church will set up (or remove) tables and/or chairs for your event if you provide specific instructions at least two weeks before your event. A setup fee of \$25 will apply. Seekers Church is wheelchair-accessible.

10. Hold Harmless

By signing this agreement, you agree to hold harmless Seekers Church from any or all claims arising from your use of the building and any conduct you allow to occur, and agree to defend Seekers Church from all such claims.

11. Parking

There are nine spaces in the Seekers Church parking lot. Unless otherwise agreed, parking in the lot is first come, first served.

Parking is permitted in marked spaces only, and never against the fence or building. Double parking is prohibited. Vehicles leaving the lot must yield right of way to those entering the lot. Parking is NOT permitted in the lot of any neighboring business. You are responsible for your guests' compliance with these rules.

There is metered parking on the surrounding streets and in the Takoma Metro lot. Metro parking is free on weekends. For more information, see the Metro website.

12. Building Access and Security

Access to the building is controlled by a security system that is linked to a security monitoring company. Before your event begins we will provide you with a special access code for the part of the building you are using, along with detailed instructions on using it. Make sure you have read the instructions carefully and have a current access code to open the doors and turn off the alarm system **BEFORE** you begin your event.

USERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR KEEPING THE OUTSIDE DOORS SECURED AND LOCKED AT ALL TIMES. DOORS MAY NOT BE PROPPED OPEN. A FEE OF \$50 WILL BE ASSESSED FOR EACH VIOLATION OF THIS RULE. Make necessary arrangements to station someone at a door to admit your guests or participants, including latecomers. Please do not admit anyone you do not know. Note, however, that diverse members of Seekers Church may come and go during your time in the building. They will do their best not to disturb you.

Please provide Seekers Church with the cell phone number of someone who will be attending your event. This cell phone should be left on during your event in case Seekers Church needs to reach you.