

# Homewood Friends Meeting

## COVID-19 Reopening Plan for Meeting for Worship

APPROVED 6/6/2021

### **WELCOME BACK!**

Many have expressed longing to be together after over a year worshipping remotely. With many of us vaccinated and declining COVID-19 case rates this time has finally come! Beginning **Sunday, June 13, 2021** Homewood will be open for in-person worship. We will worship together in-person with an option to worship with us remotely via Zoom (blended Meeting for Worship). We have found that Zoom has allowed us to incorporate Friends into the fabric of our worship life who otherwise are unable to participate in-person. We want to continue this option indefinitely.

We will follow current CDC guidelines and Baltimore City/State of Maryland directives, will monitor them as they evolve, and update this reopening plan accordingly. We may include requirements that exceed those recommended by CDC or required by Baltimore City or the State of Maryland.

- **Should you come?** We hope to see you in-person at Homewood when you are ready. Note that there is potential risk of COVID-19 transmission at Meeting. We hope that you will come to Meeting; however, people who participate do so at their own risk. Please do not come to the Meeting House if you are experiencing any [COVID-19 symptoms](#) or if you are not fully vaccinated and have had known exposure to someone with COVID-19.
- **Current infection control guidelines for Homewood Friends Meeting for Worship include:**
  - **Entering:** When Friends arrive for worship, enter and leave by the front door only. Do not use the side door. Hand sanitizer will be available at the front door and its use is encouraged.
  - **Wear masks/face coverings** while in the Meeting House as they are required per Baltimore City Health Department order.
  - **Physical Distancing:** Although as of May 15, 2021 Baltimore City has lifted all capacity restrictions, we request that you sit individually or in household groups at least 6 feet apart. Benches will be marked with blue painters tape indicating where to sit. Chairs will also be available.
  - **Physical Contact:** In deference to those who are not comfortable with physical contact (e.g., handshakes or hugs), please secure permission before touching others.
  - **Close of Meeting:** The end of Meeting will be signified verbally rather than by shaking of hands.

- **Ventilation:** The windows will be open with fans facing outwards towards the windows.
  - **Bathrooms:** All bathrooms are available for use. Bleach wipes are available to wipe down surfaces. Paper towels only will be in the bathrooms.
  - **Room Restrictions:** The library, upstairs and downstairs are not open for use at this time.
  - **Childcare:** No nursery care will be available at this time.
  - **Religious Education:** Programming for school age children will occur sporadically throughout the summer, and will be held outdoors.
  - **Cleaning and disinfecting:** High touch surfaces will be cleaned each week prior to Meeting for Worship.
  - **No food or drink will be consumed in the Meeting House.** No Simple Lunch will be provided at this time.
- **Blended Worship Considerations.**
    - Friends delivering messages or making announcements will need to stand up and speak slowly, loudly and clearly in order to be heard by persons participating remotely. In person participants may remove their mask when sharing.
    - We will be using an all-in-one system that has microphones, speakers and camera which will be hooked to a laptop and a television screen for Zoom. Participants in worship will be visible via camera. The camera will zoom in on persons who are speaking. Meeting for Worship will not be recorded.
    - In order to make this work there will be one volunteer needed each week to assist with the tech support for this effort. A brief Zoom training program will be provided to perform this function. If you are willing to volunteer for this please contact the office.
- **Greeters:**
    - At time of arrival greeters will assure that the “SuperEars” have batteries and have them available for participants.
    - Greeters will ensure that people have masks and are aware of the building use guidelines.

We're looking forward to having us back together again. Please help us to make this a safe space for everyone.