

Homewood Friends Meeting Pandemic Response Plan

Effective 10/10/22

The Homewood Friends Meetinghouse is open for use by Meeting members and attenders and by renters. We follow current CDC guidelines and Baltimore City/State of Maryland directives, monitoring them as they evolve, and we will update this Pandemic Response Plan accordingly. We may include requirements that exceed CDC guidelines or Baltimore City/State of Maryland requirements. While we are opening the meetinghouse for worship and other gatherings, there remains some risk of SARS-CoV-2 transmission. Any person who comes to the meetinghouse will do so at their own risk.

The requirements below will be followed by all persons entering the meetinghouse, including all renters and contractors.

COVID-19 Symptoms: If you have symptoms of COVID-19, please do not enter the meetinghouse. These include: fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea.

Masks: Although Baltimore City rescinded its mask mandate, Homewood Friends Meeting will continue to require masks for group activities sponsored by Homewood Friends Meeting and for contractors working in the building. The reason for this rule is that by wearing masks we protect the most vulnerable among us, e.g., newborn infants or immunosuppressed persons. This requirement will be reviewed periodically.

Exceptions to this rule are:

- Homewood groups of five or less, who are meeting in a confined space in the building, can remove masks if all persons in the group agree (without coercion) not to wear masks.
- Masks can be removed when eating or drinking, with masks replaced when not eating or drinking.
- Renters can make a decision not to require masks for their groups, with notification to participants that while masks are required in public spaces, e.g., hallways and bathrooms, they will not be required for those in the rented space.

The Meeting has a supply of high quality masks, for persons who need them, available at the entrances to the Meeting Room.

HEPA air filtering machines are located in the library and in the dining room. The library machine can be temporarily relocated upstairs for the First Day School or for other purposes, as needed.

Meeting for Worship: We will worship together in-person, with an option to worship 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 are unable to participate in-person. We plan to continue this option indefinitely. Masks should be removed, temporarily, when delivering a message in Meeting for Worship or when making an announcement.

Simple Lunch: Weather permitting Simple Lunch or other activities involving eating or drinking will occur outdoors on the side porch. If a decision is made to hold lunch in the dining room, the windows will be opened and the ceiling fans turned on.

Any questions or concerns about this plan should be addressed to: homewoodfriends@gmail.com.