

[COVID-19, influenza and other infectious disease - PROTOCOL TEMPLATES FOR SFS EVENTS & ACTIVITIES - 12-2-22](#)

All events and activities will have these primary objectives:

- Hold in-person gatherings that, to the best of our ability, protect the health and safety of the members of our Sacred Community
- Provide virtual options, when feasible, to accommodate those who cannot or prefer not to attend events in person
- Follow NY State DOH and CDC guidelines and the advice of our medical professionals.

COVID-19, influenza and other infectious diseases continue to be detected with various intensities in different communities and are subject to changing prevalence. We will continue to update protocols as necessary.

Template to be applied to ALL in-person events and activities, whether outdoors or indoors, unless differences are specified:

- **Discretion** - The clergy and the lay leadership will be allowed discretion in implementing these protocols.
- **Vaccination Status:** SFS encourages all members of our sacred community to be up-to-date with their inoculations. As of November 17, 2022 SFS will no longer check proof of vaccination status or track that information, but will retain previously recorded information of vaccination status.
- **Physical Distancing:** To the extent possible, spaces will be configured to allow for distancing when the risk from infectious diseases is high .
- **Face coverings:** The clergy and leadership will determine masking requirements based on conditions at the time and their assessment of the best interests of the congregation as a whole. Anyone with special concerns should feel comfortable continuing to mask if they choose for their own added protection.

We encourage the use of N95 and KN95 masks and have them available at all in-person events.

- **Ventilation:**
 - The HVAC system has been upgraded to M-11 filters. We keep track of when they need to be replaced.
 - The system is monitored to ensure a satisfactory mix of fresh air while providing a comfortable environment.
 - Wherever reasonable and when risk is high, all windows and doors are opened.
 - Whenever reasonable and when risk is high, events should continue to be held outdoors. However, clergy and leadership have discretion deciding where to hold events.

- **Food:**
 - The clergy and leadership have the discretion to allow eating for congregational events, onegs, and lifecycle events if they deem it is safe to do so. Appropriate measures will be taken to mitigate health risks existing at the time of the event. If masking is recommended to attend an event, attendees will be strongly encouraged to wear their masks at all times except when seated at a table eating.

- **Registration:**
 - Pre-registration is required for all events so that we can manage capacity.
 - We obtain and record the names and contact information for all attendees.
 - Individuals should not attend in person until they are symptom free. If they have been ill recently, they should mask to avoid possibly infecting others. Individuals who have tested positive for COVID should follow CDC guidelines on isolation and masking.

- **Pre-event communications** will briefly describe the protocols everyone is expected to follow.

- **Day of the event:** Any person who has any symptoms, such as coughing, sneezing or fever should not attend.

- **Staff, tenants, licensees and small groups of volunteers:**
 - Staff and tenants and licensees may work in their designated spaces at their discretion.
 - Everyone using the building, including tenants and licensees, is expected to follow the SFS protocols for masking, distancing and sharing of food.
 - Groups of staff and/or volunteers can choose to work together unmasked if they all agree. Physical distancing is encouraged.

- **Closing of the Building:** The Clergy and leadership, in consultation with the medical professionals on the COVID Task Force, can choose to close the building for in-person events and services if they feel the risk of COVID or other infectious disease warrants it. When that occurs, they will work with staff, tenants, licensees, the Religious School, and anyone else requesting use of the building to determine acceptable uses.

- **Religious school students, teachers, assistants and staff:**
 - The Religious School will adhere to the congregational protocols outlined in this document
 - The Religious School Director, Clergy and leadership, in consultation with our medical professionals, will have discretion on deciding when to meet in person and how to ensure safety regarding COVID and other infectious diseases.