



Agreement for Safer Small Groups

version June 25, 2020

As we navigate the COVID-19 pandemic together, we continue to explore modified methods for connecting with our community. The FUS virtual landscape is now full of rich opportunities for deep engagement, growth, and learning. We're excited to continue cultivating those offerings over the coming year. Simultaneously, as the local public health conditions allow, we will support small in-person gatherings, with an ever-present commitment to inclusivity that guides us to embrace a hybrid of in-person/virtual gatherings. Below is the agreement that will guide community interactions in this new era.

Together, we agree to:

- **Honor the importance of being mindful of both our physical and mental health.**
We recognize there are risks and challenges in gathering together physically. We recognize there are risks and challenges in solitude. There is potential joy and fulfillment in both. We trust each other to weigh these interconnected needs carefully.
- **Recognize that everyone is doing their best in an era of uncertainty.**
We will strive for kindness in our interactions. We will strive for flexibility. We recognize that there may be times when small groups may not be able to meet at FUS. We'll continue to monitor the outbreak of COVID-19 locally via the Madison & Dane County Public Health and will reassess gatherings regularly. Together we will embrace patience and prudence.
- **Ensure there are opportunities for higher risk populations to participate and stay involved, especially when in-person events occur.**
No one should feel pressured to interact in person. Every in-person gathering must also have a virtual option available. This will take additional time and effort, but it is essential to avoid marginalizing the most vulnerable amongst us.
- **Enjoy each other's presence from a minimum distance of six feet.**
- **Wear a mask.**
This is what love looks like. This is what we do for each other. FUS will ensure extra masks are available. Staff and volunteers do not need to wear a mask when on camera (with appropriate social distance measures taken) or when alone in their office with the door closed.
- **Contribute to sanitizing and disinfecting the facility.**
At the entrance of each meeting room, a "Good Health Station" will be fully stocked with necessary materials. Please clean and disinfect areas you've touched or have been breathing on, especially chairs, tables, and doorknobs before leaving. This is a two-step process. First, please use available paper towels to clean surfaces with "EnviroX Concentrate 118" and then disinfect with "EnviroX Critical Care." See additional information at the "Good Health Station." When your group is finished utilizing the space, please place a pink post it on the meeting door so the staff knows to take extra care in its cleaning that evening. FUS will continue to use EPA-approved emerging viral pathogen products for daily disinfecting.
- **Recognize that singing, chanting, reciting prayers, playing wind instruments, and deep breathing carries a higher risk of transmission of COVID-19.**
At this time, these activities must continue to happen virtually and not at in-person gatherings at FUS.

- **Recognize the importance, in this new era, of knowing who is in our building and when for the safety of all.** *Small group gatherings now include a process of collecting all participant's names and contact information prior to the meeting. Please RSVP at least 48 hours before the event start time. This small group practice will eventually become useful in larger group gatherings down the road. This new norm of RSVP'ing will help us stay in close and quick communication should someone you've been in contact with test positive for COVID-19. Your event scheduler will send you this information before your meeting. A final list of attendees should be verified by the person scheduling the event with Florence Jessup within 24 hours of the meeting.*

As individuals, we agree that:

- **We are responsible for assessing our own risk factors and susceptibility for contracting or developing severe reactions to COVID. We will not assess anyone else's risk or pass judgment on decisions others make regarding their own health.**

The current recommendations, as of June 15, are that the following individuals continue to shelter in place:

- *Those over the age of 60, or with*
- *Underlying conditions that include, but are not limited to, chronic lung disease, moderate to severe asthma, hypertension, severe heart conditions, weakened immunity, severe obesity, diabetes, liver disease, and chronic kidney disease that requires dialysis.*

We all enter the FUS grounds and facility at our own risk and hold FUS and all affiliated organizations harmless.

- **We agree to stay home if we are experiencing symptoms such as a fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, headache, muscle pain, sore throat, or new loss of taste or smell. We agree to immediately leave the FUS facility if we begin to experience symptoms.**
- **We will refrain from bringing items for sharing with others.**
- **We will embrace the recommendation to avoid touching ones' face and frequently wash or sanitize hands.**
- **We understand that this agreement is legally binding and entry into the FUS facility implies consent.** *We agree to make this agreement accessible and available to everyone who enters the facility. It is posted at the facility entrance. Leaders should email the agreement to participants before the gathering. Agreements are also to be reviewed in person with a staff member, the first time the group meets in person. We will hold each other accountable for all elements of this agreement.*

Special requests for exceptions may be made to the FUS Staff Leadership Team, at least two weeks prior to the gathering date. You may email Monica Nolan at monican@fusmadison.org with questions or requests.

Beginning September 1, 2020, we intend to invite one group, of 10 or fewer individuals, into the FUS facility each day (assuming our leadership team, heeding the advice of public health officials, feels it is still appropriate).

- Groups are welcome to gather for two hours or less.
- Group gatherings will occur either in the Atrium Auditorium or Courtyard A&B. Please refrain from entering any other space other than the assigned location (with the exception of the bathrooms). Please avoid unnecessarily touching surfaces.
- An outdoor space will be made available for gatherings, weather permitting, but technical accommodations must still be utilized to engage those who prefer to participate virtually.
- Please direct requests for space usage to Florence Jessup and Monica Nolan at florencej@fusmadison.org and monican@fusmadison.org at least two weeks prior to the preferred meeting time. Meetings can be booked no more than three months in advance. Higher priority will be given to FUS small groups that have not yet utilized the facility. At this time small groups should plan to meet at FUS a maximum of once every three months. We are not taking requests for reoccurring meetings at this time. To see a list of potentially available dates please visit the FUS website.