

Basis for New SHMG AA Meeting Protocols and Oakbrook Church Agreements

Recent Changes in COVID-19 Requirements at Federal and Virginia State Level:

May 14, 2021—Governor Ralph Northam lifted Virginia’s universal indoor mask mandate to align with new guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Governor Northam also announced that Virginia will ease all distancing and capacity restrictions on Friday, May 28, two weeks earlier than planned. The updates to Virginia’s mask policy are reflected in amendments to Executive Order Seventy-Two and will become effective at midnight on May 14.

The Governor also lifted all of Virginia’s mitigation restrictions on capacity and distancing in business and public spaces. He strongly urge Unvaccinated Virginians to wear a mask in public. “It’s either a shot or a mask. It is up to you.” Ref. [1]

Interim CDC Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated and Unvaccinated People:

May 28, 2021 – CDC reported that currently authorized vaccines in the United States are highly effective at protecting vaccinated people against symptomatic and severe COVID-19.

They asserted that Fully Vaccinated people can resume activities without wearing a mask or physically distancing, except where required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules, and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance.

The CDC also recommended that Unvaccinated people take prevention measures: wear a mask, stay 6 feet apart, and wash their hands. The CDC also updated their “*Choosing Safer Activities*” Infographic (Appendix A.) that characterize the relative safeness of outdoor and indoor activities for gatherings of Unvaccinated people. Unvaccinated people were defined as individuals of all ages, including children, that have not completed a vaccination series or received a single-dose vaccine. Refs. [2] and [3].

Implications of CDC and VA Governor Guidance:

An explicit view is that the vaccinations are very effective and vaccinated people can go about their business in both indoor and outside environments. An implicit view is that unvaccinated people will only effect other unvaccinated people. The current success of wide-spread vaccinations in the United States, recent CDC policy changes, and the ability of Fully Vaccinated people to resume outdoor and indoor activities, provide an opportunity to revise and simplify SHMG AA Meeting Protocols and Oakbrook Church Agreements.

Revising SHMG Protocols and Oakbrook Church Agreements:

Current protocols and agreements were approved by the SHMG Group Conscious on August 1, 2020, and were documented in Refs. [4], [5], and [6]. They were well received and followed by Sunset Hills Members at all Oakbrook Meetings. The outbreak of COVID-19 during February to July 2020 required creation of a Protocol document governing Hybrid Meetings and reduced the scope of prior Agreements with Oakbrook Church.

New SHMG Protocols

- Fully Vaccinated Members resume Pre-COVID-19 Protocols.
- Unvaccinated Members take CDC Prevention Measures.
- In-person and On-line Hybrid Meetings Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday.
- SHMS provided Speaker, Microphone, and Webcam.

Oakbrook Church Agreements:

- Revert to Pre-Covid-19 Agreements with minor updates.
- Oakbrook provided TV Screen, Interfaces, and Internet Connection.

References:

- [1] "Governor Northam Lifts Mask Mandate to Align with CDC Guidance, Announces Virginia to End COVID-19 Mitigation Measures on May 28," dated May 14, 2021. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FWVA2fdjtZU>
- [2] "Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People. Summary of Recent Changes," CDC Update May 28, 2021. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html>
- [3] "CDC *Choosing Safer Activities Infographic*," dated May 24, 2021. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/participate-in-activities.html>
- [4] "Sunset Hills Men's Group Agreements with Oakbrook Church," dated 1 August 2020
- [5] "Group Conscience Approved Safety Protocols for SHMG Combined in-Person and Virtual ("Hybrid") Meetings". Group Conscious Approved August 1, 2020.
- [6] "Other Protocol Descriptions, Group Conscious Approved August 1, 2020.
- [7] "New SHMG Protocols for Hybrid meetings," dated June 10, 2021.
- [8] "Updated Sunset Hills Men's Group Agreements with Oakbrook Church," dated June 10, 2021

Appendix A: CDC "Choosing Safer Activities" Infographic.

Choosing Safer Activities

Accessible link: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/participate-in-activities.html>

	Unvaccinated People	Examples of Activities	Fully Vaccinated People
		Outdoor	
Safest		Walk, run, wheelchair roll, or bike outdoors with members of your household	
		Attend a small, outdoor gathering with fully vaccinated family and friends	
		Attend a small, outdoor gathering with fully vaccinated and unvaccinated people, particularly in areas of substantial to high transmission	
Less Safe		Dine at an outdoor restaurant with friends from multiple households	
Least Safe		Attend a crowded, outdoor event, like a live performance, parade, or sports event	
		Indoor	
Less Safe		Visit a barber or hair salon	
		Go to an uncrowded, indoor shopping center or museum	
		Attend a small, indoor gathering of fully vaccinated and unvaccinated people from multiple households	
Least Safe		Go to an indoor movie theater	
		Attend a full-capacity worship service	
		Sing in an indoor chorus	
		Eat at an indoor restaurant or bar	
		Participate in an indoor, high intensity exercise class	

Get a COVID-19 vaccine



Prevention measures not needed



Take prevention measures

Wear a mask, stay 6 feet apart, and wash your hands.

- Safety levels assume the recommended prevention measures are followed, both by the individual and the venue (if applicable).
- CDC cannot provide the specific risk level for every activity in every community. It is important to consider your own personal situation and the risk to you, your family, and your community before venturing out.



cdc.gov/coronavirus

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