



April 18, 2022

Re: The FriendShip's COVID-19 Guidance Update
From: The FriendShip's Board of Directors
To: Members and Volunteers

At our April 12, 2022 meeting, the Board of The FriendShip updated our safety precautions for COVID-19 as listed below, effective immediately. This is in response to Richland County maintaining a CDC community level of "low."

Please note that the decision to loosen restrictions (i.e., making masks optional and permitting indoor programs with food and drink) is based on the data as of today. We will continue to monitor the situation in our area. If the community level rises again, we will adjust our guidance and increase precautions again, as needed, based on CDC recommendations.

The CDC offers the following guidance for people living in a community at the "low" level:

- Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines.
- Get tested if you have symptoms.

Additionally, the CDC states that: "People may choose to mask at any time. People with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 should wear a mask. Masks are required on public transportation and may be required in other places by local or state authorities." For those who are immunocompromised or at high risk for severe disease, the [CDC's website offers additional recommendations](#) on how to protect yourself for each community level rating.

The FriendShip's expectation is that all members and volunteers will stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines. In addition, please follow the updated guidelines below:

- **Mask wearing**
 - The wearing of masks is now OPTIONAL, though encouraged.
 - If a member or volunteer requests masks be worn during a service, that request should be granted. As always, our respect for one another is paramount.
 - Please communicate preferences about mask wearing at the time of requesting a service, as that will help us match members/volunteers appropriately.
 - When wearing a mask, please be sure to wear it correctly, consistently covering the nose and mouth.

- **Indoor/outdoor gatherings** – Indoor programs with food and drink may resume. Weather permitting, outdoor events are a good alternative to indoor, especially if ventilation is questionable.
- **Follow the CDC’s guidelines** – The FriendShip will follow, at a minimum, the CDC’s guidance related to COVID-19 safety practices.
 - Please refer to the CDC for information related to such things as exposure, isolation, and quarantine guidance.
 - You can track your county’s “COVID-19 community levels” (i.e., high, medium, or low) on the CDC’s website, as well as find prevention steps recommended at each level.
- **Take advantage of COVID-19 testing options** – If you have symptoms or have been exposed, please take advantage of local testing options. You can also visit COVIDtests.gov to order free at-home tests.
- **Cancel services when needed** – Cancel services if you have symptoms of COVID-19 or have been exposed to COVID-19.

If you have questions about the information above or need help accessing resources, please contact The FriendShip office at 803-602-6434.

Last updated: April 18, 2022
 March 11, 2022
 January 20, 2022
 September 17, 2021
 August 20, 2021