



January 20, 2022

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

To best protect our members and volunteers as COVID-19 rates in our area are high and breakthrough cases continue, the Board has updated our safety precautions as listed below, effective immediately. The situation will be regularly reassessed by the Board and its Ad Hoc Health & Safety Committee. As we monitor the situation in our area, we will provide further guidance if our practices need revision. **If you have questions about the information below or need help accessing resources, please contact The FriendShip office at 803-602-6434. We are here to help!**

**Our expectation is that all members and volunteers will be fully vaccinated and boosted.** In addition, please follow the guidelines below:

- **Mask wearing is required** – The FriendShip requires that all members and volunteers (including those who are fully immunized) who are able wear a mask during programs, meetings, and services.
  - It is critical that masks are worn correctly, consistently covering the nose and mouth.
  - Upgrade to a higher quality mask, if at all possible. The [CDC has updated its guidance relating to masks](#) and notes that different types of masks provide different levels of protection; well-fitting KN95s and “NIOSH-approved respirators (including N95s)” offer the highest levels of protection.
- **Keep physical distancing** – Physical distancing of six feet is expected in meetings and programs. During transportation services, please understand that some members or volunteers may be more comfortable with passengers in the backseat. Please share any such preferences with the office when making service requests.

- **Be mindful of other safety precautions for gatherings**
  - Activities involving eating or drinking are temporarily suspended.
  - Outdoor gatherings and Zoom meetings are preferred, but, with the above protections in place, in-person meetings and programs may cautiously continue with physical distancing and limited duration.
- **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.
- **Take advantage of COVID-19 testing options** – If you have been or may have been exposed, please take advantage of [local testing options](#). You can also visit [COVIDtests.gov](https://www.cdc.gov/covid/testing) 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.
- **Carefully consider service requests** – Given the infectiousness of the Omicron variant, please consider whether any non-essential services might be postponed during this surge in order to protect yourself and other members/volunteers.

Please continue to use good judgement and err on the side of caution. Thank you for all you have done and continue to do for one another. During these difficult times, The FriendShip truly has been a source of strength for our members and volunteers.

Last updated:        January 20, 2022  
                               September 17, 2021  
                               August 20, 2021