

OVYM COVID SAFETY POLICY FOR ANNUAL SESSIONS

May 1, 2022

The OVYM COVID Safety Policy applies to all attending our annual sessions. This policy will be updated to reflect developments in COVID cases in our region and any changes in Mount St. Joseph University (MJSU) policies.

Anticipate last minute changes related to unforeseen developments in the pandemic or site and program details. Look for signage on site for up-to-date instructions.

The OVYM Planning Committee and Executive Committee aim to provide a safe and healthy place to gather. If you attend OVYM sessions this year, we invite you to be patient with and empathetic to one another and the Planning Committee, who has been tasked with formulating policy for attending sessions. Setting policy poses on-going challenges. Let's "Embrace the Healing Power of Community" together!

Here are the basic "rules" for attending 2022 OVYM Sessions:

- Each participant who attends the session agrees to abide by the COVID policies outlined by Mount St. Joseph University (MSJU) and by the OVYM Planning Committee.
- Per the MSJU COVID-19 Safety Guidelines: Visitors who have signs or symptoms of COVID-19, have had exposure to COVID-19 and are not up-to-date on their vaccination, or have been diagnosed with COVID-19 (active case) will not be permitted to enter campus.
- All participants attending OVYM will be required to have up to date COVID-19 vaccinations. Per the CDC, "fully vaccinated" means completing a primary series and, for those ages 12 and up, one booster shot. Children who were under 5 by April 15 are exempt from this vaccination requirement. Consistent with the testimony of integrity, we do not require proof of vaccination. Friends will be asked to affirm their vaccination status on the registration form and at the registration desk, and we will accept your responses.
- OVYM encourages Friends to show care and concern for the whole community, including vulnerable family members who may not be in attendance, by doing all in your power to prevent the spread of COVID. Respect for others is paramount. Please ask if it is okay to hug another Friend no matter their age.
- Everyone should bring a well-fitting mask to wear when children under 5 are present. If possible, bring rapid tests in case anyone in your group learns of COVID exposure or experiences symptoms during annual sessions. Planning

Committee will have a limited number of rapid tests and N-95 or KN-95 masks available for attendees.

- If you want to read MSJU current COVID Safety Policy updated on March 14, 2022, click on the following link: [MSJU Covid safety policy](#).

MASKING POLICY

- Because children under 5 are not yet eligible for a vaccine, we require properly worn masks (covering nose and mouth) in all indoor public areas (hallways, lobbies, welcoming event) where unvaccinated children may be present. We must endeavor to protect this vulnerable age group. Children younger than 2 years old are exempt from masking per CDC.
- Please Note: MSJU staff and students will not be required to abide by our masking policy. You may encounter these unmasked individuals. Please respect their right to follow MSJU masking policy.
- In the event no children under 5 years old register for sessions, we will provide updated instructions by the registration table.
- In adult only settings like Business Meeting, Worship Sharing, and Workshops, wearing masks is optional. We will provide areas in all public settings for those who wish to wear a mask and maintain distance from those who are unmasked. Some Friends may be comfortable with wearing a mask and sitting near unmasked Friends. The aim is to find the best comfort level for each individual in regard to safety. There will be ample opportunity for mask breaks outdoors, in your room, and in the company of those who share your risk assessment.

WORSHIP SHARING GROUPS

- We will provide one worship sharing group with masks required. If enough attendees opt for this group, the group will meet in the Seton Center (no long walk across the Quad). Another worship sharing group will meet outdoors. Two others will be in classrooms a short walk across the Quad.

WORKSHOPS

- Please bring a mask to workshops in the event that small group activities puts you in close proximity to someone who would be more comfortable if everyone in the group is masked.

PLENARIES

- Please be aware of those in the audience who choose to wear masks and maintain distance from unmasked individuals. If you need to take a seat near someone who desires to keep distance from those without masks, please wear your mask, too.

SELF MONITORING AND TESTING

- We ask that all attendees self-monitor their health (and the health of minor children in your care) prior to, during, and after OVYM sessions. We encourage people to bring rapid test kits to the session.
- If a case of COVID is confirmed in any attender in your household, you must notify Eric Wolff, the Registrar. If a case develops within one week following sessions, please contact the Registrar (registrar.ovym@gmail.com).
- There is no testing requirement in order to attend sessions, but we urge individuals who fall into the following categories to test prior to arrival.
 1. Anyone who has been exposed to COVID-19 in the two-week period prior to annual sessions (any time after May 24), even if you have no symptoms. MSJU recommends testing 5 days after exposure. A PCR test is recommended.
 2. Anyone who has had COVID-19 in the month prior to annual sessions is encouraged to use a rapid test to confirm they now test negative. We are aware that some people are testing positive long after they are asymptomatic and have followed the recommended quarantine. If you fall into this category, we ask you to wear a mask.
 3. IF during our time together you feel sick or learn that you have been exposed to COVID, you must wear a mask. You should take a rapid test. If positive, you should plan to leave campus immediately. The Registrar will prorate a refund of any fees you (and your family group) have paid based on your departure time.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

- All children ages 5 and older must be fully vaccinated to attend. We encourage families to register early so that they can be in communication with Hannah Branson and the Children's Program team.
- All participants in the Children's program older than 2 years old shall wear a mask if there are unvaccinated children present. This includes all children and adults in the program.
- Please follow all instructions provided on site during our sessions on how we will handle interactions with unvaccinated children and the community body.

SPECIAL AREAS OF NOTE

- **DINING HALL:** The dining hall is quite large. There is LOTS of room for people to spread out.
 - If you (and your family) wish to be distant from others while taking your masks off to eat, there is room for everyone to do this safely.
 - If you wish to be at tables where you talk with other attendees while you eat, this will also be encouraged.
- **SINGING.** We will have singing prior to our evening events. We ask everyone to keep at least 6 feet away from others. Masks will be optional unless COVID cases necessitate a policy change.
- **YOUTH PROGRAM.** will follow the same guidelines and policy as all adults.
- **NEW SURGE.** If another COVID surge arises as our session approaches, we may revise this policy. Mount St. Joseph has also indicated updates may occur as needed. It is even possible that we would cancel our in-person event if community transmission once again surges to unsafe levels. Let us pray this is not the case!