

Centering Love Amidst the On-going Impact of Covid-19: A 2024 Action of Immediate Witness (AIW)

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While the UUA has made previous statements on Covid-19, the 2024 AIW responds to current realities and makes recommendations for congregations and for the UUA that are both concrete and flexible. 86% of delegates voted in favor, including myself.

Here are some of the foundational points:

- While the emergency declarations related to Covid-19 have expired, people still experience the disease and its aftermath of Long Covid.
- The impact of changes in funding, such as reduced access to vaccines, testing and treatment, are disproportionately born by marginalized groups.
- The lack of comprehensive data collection and tracking jeopardizes lives. Public health officials don't know the current status of Covid-19 infection or mortality.
- Political bans against masking are harmful to medically vulnerable people and may create a culture of hostility.
- Ongoing research is needed into additional variants, new vaccinations, treatments for Covid-19 and for Long Covid.
- Advocacy at the national level is needed to support funding for research, fair and equitable mask policies, building improvements to ventilation and filtration systems.

Recommendations:

Congregations are encouraged to:

- Define and affirm a 'new normal', which is not a return to 2019 protocols and attitudes.
- Continue to make spaces accessible to all by providing masks, sanitizer, open space.
- Identify and remove barriers to full participation, e.g. those who are cautious, ill, medically vulnerable, disabled, elderly, experiencing Long Covid.

- Support improved ventilation and filtration for interior spaces.

What this means to PUUC:

- Continue to support virtual access to worship, and expand strategies to improve virtual access to social activities, committees, outreach, etc.
- Regularly examine public health data for our region and adjust policies as needed.
- Continue to have masks and hand sanitizer available and accepted in congregational settings.
- Review our ventilation and air filtration systems for possible improvements.

If you want to read the entire text of the AIW, follow this link.

<https://www.uua.org/action/statements/centering-love-amidst-ongoing-impact-covid-19>

While we may wish that Covid-19 would just go away, we have the responsibility, as Unitarian Universalists, to educate ourselves, support others, maintain open minds, and center our actions in love. May it be so.