

## Westside Unitarian Universalist Church

### Additional Cleaning Procedures for COVID Pandemic

*last revised 10/5/2021*

These procedures shall apply in addition to the regular and routine cleaning procedures as long as Tarrant County is considered at “Moderate Risk” or above.

(<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/us/tarrant-texas-covid-cases.html>)

*The virus that causes COVID-19 can land on surfaces. It’s possible for people to become infected if they touch those surfaces and then touch their nose, mouth, or eyes. In most situations, the risk of infection from touching a surface is low. The most reliable way to prevent infection from surfaces is to regularly wash hands or use hand sanitizer. Cleaning and disinfecting surfaces can also reduce the risk of infection.*

- **Cleaning** removes germs, dirt, and impurities from surfaces or objects. Cleaning works by using soap (or detergent) and water to physically remove germs from surfaces. This process does not necessarily kill germs, but by removing them, it lowers their numbers and the risk of spreading infection.
- **Disinfecting** kills germs on surfaces or objects. Disinfecting works by using chemicals to kill germs on surfaces or objects. This process does not necessarily clean dirty surfaces or remove germs, but by killing germs on a surface after cleaning, it can further lower the risk of spreading infection.
- **Sanitizing** lowers the number of germs on surfaces or objects to a safe level, as judged by public health standards or requirements. This process works by either cleaning or disinfecting surfaces or objects to lower the risk of spreading infection.

**The gathering leader will clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces after use of the area.**

#### High Touch Surfaces Checklist

- **Door handles and edges that people touch**
- **Toilet flush levers/buttons**
- **Light switches**
- **Tabletops**
- **Chair handles and backs**
- **Microphones**
- **Faucets**
- **Any additional surfaces that hands frequently touch**

In addition, the Sexton will clean and disinfect on Tuesdays after a Sunday service.

**If someone reports COVID symptoms, a positive COVID test, or direct exposure within 24 hours of gathering at church, the church needs to be cleaned and disinfected.** If more than 24 hours have passed since the person has been in the space, cleaning is enough.

If disinfection is needed, follow the CDC recommendations:

### Before cleaning and disinfecting

- Close off areas used by the person and do not use those areas until after cleaning and disinfecting.
- Wait as long as possible (at least several hours) before you clean and disinfect.

### While cleaning and disinfecting

- Open doors and windows and use fans or HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) settings to increase air circulation in the area.
- Use products from the [EPA List](#) according to the instructions on the product label.
- Wear a mask and gloves while cleaning and disinfecting.
- Focus on the immediate areas occupied by the person unless they have already been cleaned and disinfected.
- Vacuum the space if needed. Use a vacuum equipped with a high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter and bags, if available.
  - While vacuuming, temporarily turn off in-room, window-mounted, or on-wall recirculation heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems to avoid contamination of HVAC units.
  - Do NOT deactivate central HVAC systems. These systems provide better filtration capabilities and introduce outdoor air into the areas that they serve.

Ensure safe and correct use and storage of cleaning and disinfectant products, including storing such products securely and using PPE needed for the cleaning and disinfection products.

### For soft surfaces such as carpet, rugs, and drapes

- Clean the surface using a product containing soap, detergent, or other type of cleaner appropriate for use on these surfaces.
- Launder items (if possible) according to the manufacturer's instructions. Use the warmest appropriate water setting and dry items completely.
- If you need to disinfect, use a product from the [EPA List](#) approved for use on soft surfaces.
- Vacuum as usual

### For electronics (touch screens, keyboards, remote controls, and microphones)

- For electronic surfaces that need to be disinfected, use a product on [EPA List](#). Many of the products for electronics contain alcohol because it dries quickly.

### For outdoor areas

- Spraying cleaning products or disinfectants in outdoor areas – such as on sidewalks, roads, or groundcover – is **not** necessary, effective, or recommended.
- High-touch surfaces made of plastic or metal, such as grab bars, play structures, and railings, should be cleaned regularly.
- Cleaning and disinfection of wooden surfaces (such as wood play structures, benches, tables) or groundcovers (such as mulch and sand) is not recommended.