

Theological grounding and context

As expressed in our SNEUCC Vision statement, our Conference seeks to live the love and justice of Jesus. Our scriptures, and the example of Jesus, call us to respect and care for one another, and especially for those who are most vulnerable.

In response to the continued presence of COVID in our communities, the Southern New England Conference has adopted the following policies to protect staff, guests, and their families.

I. Guest Vaccination Policies – Retreat Centers

All guests ages 5 and up are expected to be fully vaccinated (2+ weeks from final dose) against COVID-19 prior to coming to any SNEUCC office, camp or retreat center. Any guest in need of an exemption from this policy due to a medical condition is expected to discuss this need with their retreat group leader.

Guests unable to be vaccinated for reasons of age or medical condition must provide documentation of a negative COVID-19 PCR test conducted no more than 3 days prior to their arrival at a Conference site.

Retreat group leaders are responsible for reviewing proof of vaccination (e.g. a Vaccination Record Card) or PCR test result for each participant in their group, and verifying in writing that all members of the group are in full compliance with this policy.

II. Guest Masking and Distancing Policies – Retreat Centers

SNEUCC does not currently require masking of vaccinated guests. Because some people remain vulnerable to COVID even when vaccinated, guests are encouraged to be thoughtful about other guests who may be more comfortable masking and/or asking others to wear masks. Guests who may need special accommodations to protect them from COVID should talk with staff in advance of their arrival.

Groups visiting SNEUCC retreat centers are free to set more rigorous requirements for their members, with the understanding that they may be sharing common areas with other groups at times during their stay. Group leaders who are concerned about this should check with staff in advance.

Retreat Center staff will continue to wear masks when serving food or interacting with guests indoors.

Should COVID transmission rates increase, SNEUCC reserves the right to re-introduce mandatory masking for all guests in common areas.

III. Policy re: Vendors at all sites

Due to the impracticality of checking on the vaccination status of vendors and short-term guests, all vendors entering retreat spaces will be expected to wear masks and stay six feet away from employees or other guests at all times, except where a vendor has provided proof of COVID vaccination.