

*(Submitted by Susan Lankford)*

## What Should Our Reopening Policy Include?

The pandemic is a moving target, and we have to have an adaptable process. However, it's always easier to relax a standard, than to enforce a more stringent one after the fact. This is the time to establish that high bar.

There is no perfect protection, and that can't be our standard. But we should err on the side of more caution, not less. Multiple layers of protection are multiplicative.

If we fail to set a high bar for safety, only the risk-tolerant will attend Sunday services. The risk-averse, watching on Zoom, will have their fears confirmed and will stay away.

**The Freight & Salvage as a model:** A friend asked if I'd be willing to attend a concert at the Freight, so I checked the website.

I think this is an excellent example of clarity and transparency, of using multiple layers of protection, of educating attendees, and of adherence to scientific guidance. (Even I would seriously consider attending a concert at the Freight.)

With some important modifications (see below), I think it's a good model for UUCB to start with. Please read their policy:

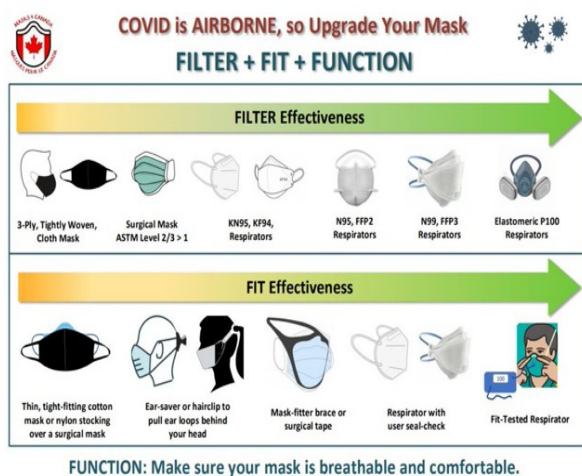
<https://thefreight.org/shows/health-and-safety/> *(This link will not be active in a PDF; see the end of this Memo.)*

*"But we're a church, not a transient group like a concert audience."* Yes. And doesn't this mean we're even *more* aware of our interdependence, not *less* so? This speaks to our covenant.

We want so much to be close to each other, and to interact naturally and affectionately. That may mean that we have to be *more* careful with artificial procedures than does an audience at the Freight, not *less* so.

Starting with the Freight's policy, I suggest the following modifications. I believe these would reassure an overwhelming majority of our congregants. And they'd meet with a lot less resistance from a vocal minority than some might think. I've tried to keep these recommendations basic, not to write your policy for you. The pandemic is a moving target.

**Better Masks and Masking:** The Freight policy specifies: "Face coverings/masks should be snugly fitted and should completely cover the nose and mouth." The CDC now recommends N95-level protection for everyone. N95s are no longer in short supply. A bandana isn't a mask, it's a fig leaf. Looking at layers of protection, and improving mask quality and masking behavior, is an obvious first step at UUCB; it's also a loving thing to do. I suggest we



should provide N95 masks outside the main door.

Masking behavior is as important as the mask itself. A poster like this could be sent in advance by email as well as posted on-site and online.

**Proof of vaccination:** Ours is a mostly stable group of regular attendees who mostly know each other, unlike a concert audience. For any person over 12 who's shown proof of vaccination and is on our list as currently protected, the process is expedited. They are "good to go." Give 'em a hand stamp. Literally.

Medical Exemption: The Freight makes no exception for those who can't be vaccinated for medical reasons, but I think we should and must allow medical exemption (assuming they are few enough not to pose a high collective risk). An unvaccinated person's privacy can be protected. We would need to have one person designated to confirm that the person has a valid medical reason, with documentation. They could easily do this in advance without being conspicuous, or having their status exposed – or in a private spot (like the admin office). No one would need to know, beyond the trusted person who verifies status. NO exceptions for adults, other than a confirmed medical excuse.

My strong preference would be to provide on-site rapid tests for any unvaccinated person over 12 who claims medical exemption. Or, by prior agreement a person might self-test at home and show the result. Those persons would be "good to go" with a hand stamp, just as though they were vaccinated.

Our kids under 12: we need to minimize risk every way we can. Sadly, I don't think we should have unvaccinated children in the Sanctuary at this time (see the comment under building access, below). I propose that young children have free access to the rest of the building, however.

In casual situations, like a possible outdoor coffee hour or passing through the Atrium on the way to the Sanctuary, a concerned person could tell at a glance that someone approaching them had been vetted, by looking at their hand.

**Building Access:** Our building is porous, with multiple points of entry. We should adopt a hand-stamp at the main door, as is often done in concert venues (like the Freight). The hand stamp is your ticket to enter the Sanctuary. And it's your way of signaling to others that you are safe to approach.

Let the Sanctuary be a Sanctuary: No one goes into the Sanctuary without a stamp (though it would be impractical to assure this in other parts of the building, frankly). The Sanctuary is an enclosed space where one is expected to sit in one spot for about an hour.

Rebreathed air: in any enclosed space, safety means minimizing the percentage of air a person breathes in that was previously breathed out by someone else. Virus lingers in the air for hours. You can be infected by breathing the air in an empty building, if an infected person was in the room a few hours ago. A strict masking policy should be in place for several hours before a Sunday service.

# Freight & Salvage Covid Safety Policy

## HEALTH & SAFETY

### Health and Safety at the Freight & Salvage

Updated: October 2, 2021

An inherent risk of exposure to Covid-19 exists in any place where people gather. Covid-19 is an extremely contagious disease that can lead to severe illness and death. By purchasing a ticket, you assume all risks, hazards, and dangers arising from or relating in any way to the risk of contracting Covid-19.

The Freight & Salvage is closely monitoring the public health guidance and best practices related to the Covid-19 pandemic. Local rates of Covid-19 cases and vaccination for Covid-19 significantly impact our practices, which are therefore subject to modification as indicated. You expressly agree to comply with all Federal, State, and local laws, ordinances, regulations, and the rules of the Freight & Salvage when attending an event. The following policies are subject to change – all attendees will receive updated information in an email communication in advance of your event.

- Will I have to be vaccinated to attend events and classes at the Freight?**  
Yes, per the [9/1/21 City of Berkeley Health Officer Order](#), all attendees are required to show proof of vaccination and photo ID in order to enter. Either your vaccination card, a photo of your card, or an official state vaccination record (e.g., [myvaccinerecord.cdph.ca.gov](http://myvaccinerecord.cdph.ca.gov)) are acceptable forms of proof of vaccination.
- Will photo ID be required?**  
Yes, per the [City of Berkeley Order](#), venues must check vaccine verification with a photo ID.
- I'm not vaccinated – can I provide a negative COVID test instead of proof of vaccination?**  
No, at this time vaccination is required of all attendees. A negative COVID test cannot be used instead of vaccination.
- Will I have to wear a mask to attend events at the Freight?**  
Yes, per the [City of Berkeley Order on 8/2/21](#), masks/face coverings are now required, until further notice, unless exempt under the [City of Berkeley Order, section 5](#). Face coverings/masks should be snugly fitted and completely cover the nose and mouth. The Freight will provide disposable masks for any attendees who do not have one.
- What about children (under 18 and under 12)?**  
Everyone 12 and over must show proof of vaccination to enter. If your child is vaccinated but does not have photo identification, an attestation by a parent or guardian can be used in lieu of photo ID. Children under 12 with a parent or guardian are permitted, and must wear a mask/face covering at all times.
- Will there be food available at events?**  
We plan to sell beverages and limited snacks during selected events. Eating and drinking will be limited to a designated section of the lobby with maximum ventilation.
- If I am feeling sick on the day of the concert, can I get a refund?**  
Yes, the Freight will offer refunds to ensure compliance with all health and safety policies.
- Will there be standing room tickets?**  
No. At this time, we cannot offer standing room tickets.
- What additional safety protocols has the Freight put in place?**
  - The Freight has removed the first two rows of seating to create distance between the stage and the audience (approximately 14 feet), for all shows, until further notice.
  - All performers are required to provide proof of vaccination or negative Covid-19 rapid test upon arrival at The Freight.
  - Upgraded HVAC system to bring in 100% outside air seven times per hour and ensure the cleanest air possible.



## HEALTH & SAFETY INFORMATION



## STAY INFORMED

Email Address \*

Join Our Email List

## BOX OFFICE

Our box office is open 11 to 5PM, Tue thru Fri and 2 hours before show time. (510) 644-2020

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