

Re-open Survey Sept 2021

Comment analysis of the Re-Open Survey

Question 2 If the COVID situation (case numbers, curve increasing, etc) were the same as it is now, would you feel comfortable attending services with masks in October?

Themes:

It depends on current situation, on singing, etc.	3
If all who attend are vaccinated	4
Zoom is good (or better — captions, no masks)	4
If strong protocols are in place	10
Concern for those unable to be vaccinated or with poor immunity	2
Driving/Carpooling a risk	1
Alone for so long that groups a big change	1
Masks uncomfortable, poor for communication, but...	2
Won't attend/too risky	3

Selected comments:

* Whereas we want to be all to all people, covid has supplied us with a humbling experience...we can do lots for our members, we have before, and will continue. But Unitarians can make up their own minds about attending as long as leadership can identify and hold to the protocols. We are used to being kind and calm, and safe is the addition we need to learn to communicate. Real protocols, including vaccinations.

* Numbers are spiking and there is the risk of the new variant, of which we know nothing about how contagious it is at present. I still want social distancing

* I don't hear well when masks are worn, so the zoom services would be vastly better for audio. And of course masks are de-personalizing anyway.

* Currently, of the new covid cases on Vancouver Island, nearly 50% are in the South Island, most are Delta, and nearly 25% of those are community spread of unknown origin. The seven day rolling average is trending upwards, not downwards. Even with masks, this is not sufficient protection given that even double vaccinated people can be carriers, and transmission can occur with minimal exposure. So, in these circumstances, my answer is no.

Question 3. If you selected No or Unsure for Question 2 what would make you feel safer attending services in October? That is, “I would attend in person services if...”:

Themes:

Proof of vaccination for all attendees	10
Shouldn't ask for vaccine status	5
Masking - yes	4
Masking - no	1
Delta variant concerns	3
More new variants	1
Prefer zoom	3
Music - humming, no singing	2
- distanced performers	1
Strong protocols (eg. few attendees, masks, etc)	2
Until it is safe for ALL to attend	2
When boosters available	1
Captioning at church	1
Postpone until Nov.	1

Selected Comments:

- * if hybrid services are offered (in-person and on Zoom/Facebook simultaneously), I will most often participate from home - mostly because that means I will have more time with my family on Sundays (i.e. no travel time back and forth from the church). The exception to this, of course, is if I am worship associate that Sunday and expected to be in the sanctuary to fulfill that role.
- * I do think that all of these suggestions are wise, except for requiring proof of vaccination. I have just selected the two that are most important to me. I do not think that requiring vaccination as a policy is the equitable way to go. Better to stick with protocols that protect everyone, regardless of vaccination status. My strong preference is to remain primarily online until it is safe for all of our community members (including children and those who are immunocompromised) to gather in person. I don't think we're there yet and may not be for many more months.

- * With regards to declaration of vaccination, there are logistical and philosophical aspects that I find troublesome. This is a divisive issue; the results of this particular survey question would need to be communicated to the congregation with utmost care.
- * The provincial "vaccination passport" would be more convincing than a mere declaration. Even the requirements mentioned above may not be enough to convince me to attend. Things keep changing regarding the contagiousness of the variants.
- As detailed in question one response, masks are a significant deterrent to me since I am hearing-impaired, and since there is not absolutely safe set of precautions without them, virtual services still top the bill.

Question 6. Do you have any other feedback for the COVID Team?

Themes:

Thanks/appreciation	17
All to be fully vaccinated/ use passports	12
Too much at risk to go too fast	12
Please keep zoom/ I'll continue it	8
At risk person, family member, job	7
Case numbers are rising	7
Variants are concerning	6
Mask issues/comfort, requirement, communication	5
Will follow Prov. Health Guidelines	4
Need strong protocols	3
Captioning important	2
New member hesitant to meet new people	1
Too early for food/not enough volunteers	1
Hopeful	1
Consider pods or bubbles	1
I can look after myself and make my own decisions	1

Selected comments:

* As a Worship Associate I am comfortable returning to in-person to help with services. As a congregant I would be happier waiting until we don't have to wear masks -- I would rather talk face to face unmasked on zoom than face to face with masks in person. I have trouble hearing conversations when everybody is masked, so it puts a strain on socializing. However, we may still be wearing masks next year, so maybe it isn't practical to wait.

* As I am living with someone who is fully vaccinated but is still considered high risk because of age and health issues, I would feel awkward not knowing there could be someone who is not fully vaccinated in the congregation.

* I long to regroup in the Sanctuary as we used to, but realize that will not happen for a long time. The togetherness and community I felt came from singing together, chatting after service, as well as seeing and hearing the Ministers in person. Zoom is not as good as in person, but experiencing on-line service without masks is better than risking a failed, premature "come back to church".

*With case numbers increasing again, the manner in which this airborne variant attaches "stickally" into the back of the throat, the questionable protection of even two vaccinations from this variant and given the vulnerable age demographic of our congregation I believe we need to be as proactive in our protections now as we were one year ago before vaccinations. I know we are all anxious to return to the "Sanctuary" of in person gathering and physical communion but is it a wise risk to do so? I think our anxiousness along with a blind faith in the vaccines has made us jaded and complacent. Until this virus stops mutating we may continue to be vulnerable and woefully under-protected.

*Given the state of our planet's ecological crisis and the wide spectrum of available information addressing that future, I wonder if this community might be best served by preparing for an ongoing, 'new normal' reality that's beyond COVID and it's variants. Might it be prudent to adopt a long-range view, with corresponding policy and procedure specifics aligned to scientific evidence and UU polity, to ensure that 'the greater good' for this congregation is realistic, endorsed and sustainable.

* I will attend if it is a requirement that everyone else attending has had the both vaccines shots.

* It is really difficult to have a simple survey for a complex issue! However, I believe that the vaccine proof is the key question, and perhaps could have been given a higher profile in the survey. Maybe the first question could have been 'if people have to show proof, would you attend?' Then, if the answer is no or unsure, ask more about why

* I feel strongly that in person church services are not held until we are well past the effects the Delta variant is having on populations. I hope that by stopping opportunities for the Delta variant to thrive (which includes thriving in vaccinated people), that it won't then give covid an opportunity to mutate in to yet another variant which could pose new challenge

* I seldom attend Church services in normal situations because I am physically disabled. There is difficulty finding a suitable place to park my wheelchair, where I can see and hear the main events. Others in the congregation avoid interactions with me so I feel left out. Whenever I attend the social suppers, I always get sick afterwards. When I seek spiritual regeneration, I have depended upon televised programs or the Unitarian Church services telecast on Facebook from Edmonton, Alberta. My participation has drifted away so that now I have only one or two contacts from this Unitarian Church....on facebook

*Wait, wait, wait until SAFE! AND SOUND.....DIFFICULT, FOR ALL OF US, BUT WE MUST STAY ALERT AND STAY PATIENT...KEEP ON WITH SUNDAYS' ZOOM SERVICES!!! TX

* See detailed answer above. The issue is the transmissibility of delta, and the fact that vaccinated people can still be carriers and get sick. The issue isn't just about our safety NOW, either. We need to do everything we can to get to ZERO cases. The problem with getting ourselves into situations where our vaccinated people get sick and transmit the variant is that we are creating the conditions for a worse variant, based on Delta. We aren't just playing with fire here. We're risking an even worse pandemic. If we want to get out of this, we need to eliminate risk, not increase it.

* A member, initials SM stated last year, you do not have to 'look after me' . At 80 I can do that quite well thank you. I can decide where I am safe.

Full comments:

Q2. If the COVID situation (case numbers, curve increasing, etc) were the same as it is now, would you feel comfortable attending services with masks in October?

It depends on other factors, such as distancing, numbers of people and ventilation.

I'd feel more confident if I knew all attendees were double vaccinated.

Attending church while wearing a mask is not any better to me than our zoom services on Sunday

I would like to know that everyone there is fully vaccinated

* Whereas we want to be all to all people, covid has supplied us with a humbling experience...we can do lots for our members, we have before, and will continue. But Unitarians can make up their own minds about attending as long as leadership can identify and hold to the protocols. We are used to being kind and calm, and safe is the addition we need to learn to communicate. Real protocols, including vaccinations.

Maybe - if the chairs were 6 feet apart, everyone had to hand sanitize on entry, and if only those with vaccine passports could enter. If all of those other conditions applied, I would be okay with removing masks once seated.

At current levels, I would be fine; if cases were to significantly increase in south Island (e.g., double or triple), I would want to know about plans to limit attendance and maximize ventilation.

We need to keep in mind that our ministers have an unvaccinated child and we should ensure they are not exposed to risk unnecessarily.

I don't drive and I'm not sure how people feel about carpooling. I'd still be very cautious if I had a ride, but I think I'd want to take the risk. It would feel strange being with so many people when I've mostly been alone for a year and a half, so I'm not sure if I'd change my mind.

Need more info on the churches Covid safety plan - numbers, plan for entering, exiting and cleaning

I would feel safe, but not comfortable with everyone having to be masked. If the choice were to attend wearing a mask or not have church at all, I would attend.

I prefer if you have any symptoms of being sick, stay home and watch on zoom

Only if people must show vaccination proof

I might be ok with me but i work in health care so i might not attend, even masked, so that i am not potentially carrying it to someone vulnerable. Also depends on if there is singing.

Only if everyone double vaccinated.

I like the zoom services

* Numbers are spiking and there is the risk of the new variant, of which we know nothing about how contagious it is at present. I still want social distancing

* I don't hear well when masks are worn, so the zoom services would be vastly better for audio. And of course masks are de-personalizing anyway.

* Currently, of the new covid cases on Vancouver Island, nearly 50% are in the South Island, most are Delta, and nearly 25% of those are community spread of unknown origin. The seven day rolling average is trending upwards, not downwards. Even with masks, this is not sufficient protection given that even double vaccinated people can be carriers, and transmission can occur with minimal exposure. So, in these circumstances, my answer is no.

I enjoy the Zoom meetings

The rest of my family would come in person once cases go down (but masks still would be preferred).

Would not be comfortable with "normal" spacing

Q3. If you selected No or Unsure for Question 2 what would make you feel safer attending services in October? That is, "I would attend in person services if...":

Active cases "decreases substantially" - I would be comfortable if they plateaued or began to decrease. Attendees should be strongly encouraged to be fully vaccinated, but I don't think we can ask them to declare it.

I'm just not sure I'm ready for in-person church service until this Delta variant is under control.

I'm not sure whether current mandatory masking pertains to religious services, but it would make me more comfortable.

*if hybrid services are offered (in-person and on Zoom/Facebook simultaneously), I will most often participate from home - mostly because that means I will have more time with my family on Sundays (i.e. no travel time back and forth from the church). The exception to this, of course, is if I am worship associate that Sunday and expected to be in the sanctuary to fulfill that role.

With a 90+ year old father along with me, I would prefer to wait until the booster shots are given. It seems odd to weigh the benefits of social interaction with the possibility of infection and death

The most important thing is that everyone is fully vaccinated. If there is a VALID medical reason not to be vaccinated that person should wear a mask. Without this, we definitely need all of the above, and I'm not sure I am comfortable yet.

humming is fine, as we learn our way through.

* I do think that all of these suggestions are wise, except for requiring proof of vaccination. I have just selected the two that are most important to me. I do not think that requiring vaccination as a policy is the equitable way to go. Better to stick with protocols that protect everyone, regardless of vaccination status. My strong preference is to remain primarily online until it is safe for all of our community members (including children and those who are immunocompromised) to gather in person. I don't think we're there yet and may not be for many more months.

No other variants arise

With regards to declaration of vaccination, there are logistical and philosophical aspects that I find troublesome. This is a divisive issue; the results of this particular survey question would need to be communicated to the congregation with utmost care.

I would love to experience music but I think only 1 or 2 performers at a distance is safer

Not only do attendees declare that they are fully vaccinated, but they also show their vaccine passports at the door.

Smaller number of congregants in the space

Note question is phrased for No or Unsure, but these considerations are relevant even for Yes!

A means to get to the church that was safe.

masks are required

Singing with a mask

Would prefer that the issue of opening up for services in October were postponed till November at this time.

Masks worn inside

Have to show vaccine cards. We have too many at risk members to take chances.

Vaccinated and passport holders

Wait till completely safe, according to our Health Officer!

I do not attend a lot so my opinion shouldn't hold much weight. I have attend more on Zoom because it is easier, safer etc. and everyone has done an incredible job. It still feel almost as good as going!! Not being able to sing would totally change the feel yet I know it should not be done together (and signing to the computer just does not give the right "feel". Keep up all the wonderful things you are doing and hopefully we will be able to get this back to at least a new normal while still staying safe. :)

Prove fully vaccinated.

Attendees prove they are fully vaccinated

The provincial "vaccination passport" would be more convincing than a mere declaration. Even the requirements mentioned above may not be enough to convince me to attend. Things keep changing regarding the contagiousness of the variants.

As detailed in question one response, masks are a significant deterrent to me since I am hearing-impaired, and since there is not absolutely safe set of precautions without them, virtual services still top the bill.

There are a variety of reasons that some people are unable to be vaccinated. I won't want to exclude them

If there is captioning

I'd prefer that vaccines were declared but that will be a tricky one without creating division in either physical space or attitudes.

Really I would need to set the number of cases/hospitalizations decreasing significantly first. Then the other factors would depend on recommendations at that time. While numbers are increasing and the aggressive new variants are less impacted by vaccine it seems unwise to meet in person.

attendees declare that they are fully vaccinated and show proof.

I said yes.

I am not sure that a declaration of being vaccinated is sufficient, as we will have vaccine cards by October. Why not use them?

Unvaccinated people should be turned away

Q6. Do you have any other feedback for the COVID Team?

* As a Worship Associate I am comfortable returning to in-person to help with services. As a congregant I would be happier waiting until we don't have to wear masks -- I would rather talk face to face unmasked on zoom than face to face with masks in person. I have trouble hearing conversations when everybody is masked, so it puts a strain on socializing. However, we may still be wearing masks next year, so maybe it isn't practical to wait.

Thanks for caring!

* As I am living with someone who is fully vaccinated but is still considered high risk because of age and health issues, I would feel awkward not knowing there could be someone who is not fully vaccinated in the congregation.

As a potential new member, I'm perhaps more hesitant about meeting new people than I would have been in pre-Covid times.

Knowing all attendees except people with legitimate medical exemptions are double-vaxxed is most important to me.

Given where I work and the requirements of my position I am limiting my exposure

Thank you for doing this survey - planning for services in this kind of environment must be so difficult. I appreciate your efforts to listen and keep everyone safe.

* I long to regroup in the Sanctuary as we used to, but realize that will not happen for a long time. The togetherness and community I felt came from singing together, chatting after service, as well as seeing and hearing the Ministers in person. Zoom is not as good as in person, but experiencing on-line service without masks is better than risking a failed, premature "come back to church".

please continue to broadcast the service on Zoom since it has subtitles.

I think it's too early to have food service unless cases drastically lower by then

How many people would be allowed in the sanctuary?

* A member, initials SM stated last year, you do not have to 'look after me' . At 80 I can do that quite well thank you. I can decide where I am safe.

no

- keeping 2 meter distance and no hugging would feel safer. - as the former coffee team co-ordinator i can tell you that we are not ready to start serving coffee and tea, because we do not have a full team of volunteers in place yet.

Thank you for all your work on this complex and ever changing situation!

Let's not be in a rush. We have done so well so far.

*With case numbers increasing again, the manner in which this airborne variant attaches "stickally" into the back of the throat, the questionable protection of even two vaccinations from this variant and given the vulnerable age demographic of our congregation I believe we need to be as proactive in our protections now as we were one year ago before vaccinations. I know we are all anxious to return to the "Sanctuary" of in person gathering and physical communion but is it a wise risk to do so? I think our anxiousness along with a blind faith in the vaccines has made us jaded and complacent. Until this virus stops mutating we may continue to be vulnerable and woefully under-protected.

I enjoy the online services. I feel much more included than in the face to face meetings. Much of this is due to me being profoundly hard of hearing and has little or nothing to do directly with Covid 19.

answers based on being fully vaccinated

*Given the state of our planet's ecological crisis and the wide spectrum of available information addressing that future, I wonder if this community might be best served by preparing for an ongoing, 'new normal' reality that's beyond COVID and it's variants. Might it be prudent to adopt a long-range view, with corresponding policy and procedure specifics aligned to scientific evidence and UU polity, to ensure that 'the greater good' for this congregation is realistic, endorsed and sustainable.

No

I really believe that the Delta variant is highly contagious and although I've been doubly vaccinated I'm still at risk because of my age.

Thank you for doing this. I find the continuing Covid situation tiring. I am immune suppressed and fully vaccinated so I am more susceptible. I will continue to attend via Zoom.

* I will attend if it is a requirement that everyone else attending has had the both vaccines shots.

Have you considered pods (bubbles, cells) to micromanage in-person activities?

I have enjoyed Zoom meetings very much. I will continue attending via Zoom until much further down the road.

Thanks for reaching out. Cheers, Andy

I feel it's just too early and the situation is still unclear, based on slowly progressing knowledge about the virus and its dangers, and countermeasures.

nope

Thank you!

Cannot take a chance.

Thanks for your ongoing efforts!

I think vaccine passports should be required except possibly for worship services when they resume. We should follow the same rules for discretionary activities as any other business or non-religious organization.

I don't plan to come back to church until Oct. 3rd.

Not right now

Sorry her I couldn't be more helpful.

I would only attend in person services if proof of vaccination is required

Thank you for keeping us apprised of the the on-going and ever-changing COVID situation.

BC Health says people who have not had the covid shot are not able to gather. I can watch on zoom if it is available. Thanks

Such a difficult job. Thank you SO much!

* It is really difficult to have a simple survey for a complex issue! However, I believe that the vaccine proof is the key question, and perhaps could have been given a higher profile in the survey. Maybe the first question could have been 'if people have to show proof, would you attend?' Then, if the answer is no or unsure, ask more about why.

I said Yes because I am taking for granted that safety measures will be implemented.

No

* I feel strongly that in person church services are not held until we are well past the effects the Delta variant is having on populations. I hope that by stopping opportunities for the Delta variant to thrive (which includes thriving in vaccinated people), that it won't then give covid an opportunity to mutate in to yet another variant which could pose new challenges.

This is hard! Thanks for doing this work!

In my opinion, the curves are going the wrong direction to consider full re-opening at this time.

Keep up the zoom or livestream option!

There's so much uncertainty it is difficult to know how things will be a month from now. Would really hope all those attending in person are fully vaccinated.

Captioning is really important for us and we have liked the zoom services

Thank you for keeping on top of this:)

Thank you for checking in with the congregation on this public health issue during a time of increasing risk from the delta variant. Your work is appreciated!

I am still uncomfortable attending in person services particularly while case numbers are on the rise. Plus, I would not like having to wear a mask for an hour or more while inside the church. I know it is mandatory and I wear a mask whenever I enter a store, but it is for a very short period of time. Again, with numbers escalating, I don't see that we have to resume in person services at this time.

I am an immune compromised person so my answers may skew things a bit.

* I seldom attend Church services in normal situations because I am physically disabled. There is difficulty finding a suitable place to park my wheelchair, where I can see and hear the main events. Others in the congregation avoid interactions with me so I feel left out. Whenever I attend the social suppers, I always get sick afterwards. When I seek spiritual regeneration, I have depended upon televised programs or the Unitarian Church services telecast on Facebook from Edmonton, Alberta. My participation has drifted away so that now I have only one or two contacts from this Unitarian Church....on facebook.

My answers may be cautious because I've had Covid 19

I don't think we should go back to services until next year

I am comfortable with following Provincial Health regulations and guidance

thanks for all the work that you have done, keeping us up to date combined with BC health updates

***Wait, wait, wait until SAFE! AND SOUND.....DIFFICULT, FOR ALL OF US, BUT WE MUST STAY ALERT AND STAY PATIENT...KEEP ON WITH SUNDAYS' ZOOM SERVICES!!! TX**

Thanks for all your hard work!

I don't want to resume church attendance based on a specific date. I'll attend when I feel it's safe based on Dr Henry's advice and my own study of stats on Vancouver Island South. Are we allowed to say people must be double vaccinated to attend? If so I'd be back in a flash! Thanks team for sending out the survey!

See question 3 and thank you all for your time.

I would feel more comfortable attending if case numbers were going down.

* Unfortunately any indoor activity is very unnerving, especially where younger people are involved. I would rather wait until the inevitable winter rise of Covid is over and see how things look at that time. It

is not that I do not want us to get together but the variants are of great concern and BC, Canada, and the World does not have any ideal of the future with any certainty.

Thank you for working to keep us all safe.

Hopeful that in person services can resume

Not everyone believes that the virus continues to be a problem, especially for those fully vaccinated. It will be difficult to convince those of the importance of masking, distancing, etc. How are these things to be enforced inside the church?

I am still unsure when it would be a safe time to meet indoors. I hope the numbers of infection goes down.

No

i appreciate you are keeping us safe.

Thanks for all these thoughtful questions, and the concern that they reflect.

If the Covid numbers significantly went down I might attend the ABC luncheon but I'm not optimistic about that as it's only 4 weeks away.

* See detailed answer above. The issue is the transmissibility of delta, and the fact that vaccinated people can still be carriers and get sick. The issue isn't just about our safety NOW, either. We need to do everything we can to get to ZERO cases. The problem with getting ourselves into situations where our vaccinated people get sick and transmit the variant is that we are creating the conditions for a worse variant, based on Delta. We aren't just playing with fire here. We're risking an even worse pandemic. If we want to get out of this, we need to eliminate risk, not increase it.

Thanks for doing this survey!

I think we need to pay attention to the medical experts

I realize that you will receive different opinions. I also believe those that want to come to service should be able to. I would prefer that only those that are double vaccinated attend.

I think we need to monitor the d variant closely. The outbreak at sunset lodge involved residents who were double vaccinated. Their symptoms were mild or asymptomatic

Thank you for doing the work you are doing and keeping us safe!

We seem to have a 4 month window when everything could go awry or BC could reach 90 percent vaccinated. Times are becoming progressively uncertain. Please consider not returning to in/ person services until Jan.

Be brave!

I think you're pushing it

While it is frustrating and it looked like we could be back in person for a little while I don't think it is responsible to go back now when numbers are high and children can't be vaccinated. I would suggest continued caution is warranted here .. frustrating as that is.

Thank you for asking.

I am double vaxxed and prepared to follow whatever protocols are required. # ? # ?

Thanks for continuing to try to keep us safe. i appreciate your work and this way of getting our feedback.