Summer 2021 COVID-19 Policies

Updated April 8, 2021

On the heels of a uniquely challenging year punctuated by the COVID-19 pandemic and the Cameron Peak wildfire, we are happy to announce that SMC plans to welcome guests back to our land beginning in July 2021.

As we plan our reopening, we wanted to share our continued commitment to safeguarding the health and wellbeing of all of our guests, presenters, and staff. To promote a safe experience at SMC, we will monitor and comply with applicable laws and regulations, and take into account recommendations from the CDC and other experts.

Listed below are our current COVID-19 policies and guidelines based on current conditions. Although we are not in a position to eliminate all risk, we are committed to mitigating as much risk as practicable. We will continue to track the pandemic as it evolves and will adapt these measures as needed in response to emerging science, recommendations from the CDC, and guidelines set by Larimer County. We will post any updates to this page.

Although we don’t wish to exclude anyone from experiencing the wisdom and magic of SMC, we understand that our policies and guidelines may preclude some people from visiting during the pandemic and apologize for any inconvenience. We appreciate your support and patience as we continue to navigate this complex and unprecedented situation, and hope to see you soon.

Applicable to Everyone on SMC’s Main Campus

* Masks covering the nose and mouth are to be worn at all times in program spaces and other indoor spaces, except when dining or in private lodging.
* Physical distancing of 6 feet is required, except in private lodging.
* Changing conditions may result in the removal of the mask and/or physical distancing requirements for those who are fully vaccinated. We will attempt to provide notice of a change in these requirements two weeks prior to the arrival date of any program.

Registered Guests and Program Presenters (“Registered Guest(s)”)

* All Registered Guests, subject to the exemptions listed below, must be fully vaccinated.
* Registered Guests who are not fully vaccinated may still attend a program if non-vaccination is based on:
	+ A sincerely held religious belief;
	+ A sincerely held moral or philosophical viewpoint that is opposed to immunization;
	+ A disability as defined by the ADA, including medical circumstances preventing vaccination;
	+ Unavailability of COVID-19 vaccine due to age; or
	+ Pregnancy, pregnancy related medical conditions, and/or breastfeeding.
* On arrival, Registered Guests must certify that they have received a full COVID-19 vaccination or have not been vaccinated due to one or more of the circumstances listed above.
* Registered Guests must also certify on arrival that they are not experiencing symptoms commonly associated with COVID-19 and have not experienced any of those symptoms for at least 7 days prior to arrival.
* SMC reserves the right to administer a COVID-19 test to any Registered Guest on arrival or in the event a Registered Guest experiences symptoms of COVID-19 while at SMC.
* Any Registered Guest who experiences symptoms of or tests positive for COVID-19 during their stay will need to depart from SMC to recover elsewhere. We recommend that anyone participating in a program either rent a car or come to SMC in their own vehicle. Unfortunately, SMC staff will not be able to provide transportation in these circumstances.
* Fully vaccinated individuals or those within the same household will be permitted to select shared lodging options. Non-vaccinated individuals must select single occupancy lodging (Tent Single, Lodge Single Monk Room, Lodge Single, and Lodge Junior Suite).
* Registered Guests who are not vaccinated must be able to drive to SMC or quarantine before arriving at SMC. If using commercial travel to Colorado (plane, bus or train), those who are not vaccinated must quarantine for 3 days prior to their arrival. Those quarantining must submit a negative COVID-19 test upon arrival, and pending further developments around testing, SMC reserves the right to administer further testing during their stay.

SMC Employees & Volunteers

* Although SMC encourages staff members to obtain COVID-19 vaccinations, we are not in a position to mandate vaccinations for staff at this time.

Day Visitors

* SMC may be open to day visitors, primarily to visit the Great Stupa of Dharmakaya, while programs are in session.
* SMC does not have the resources to require day visitors to be vaccinated or demonstrate proof of vaccination.
* To reduce the risk of contact with our Registered Guests, Day Visitors will not be permitted to enter any building other than the Stupa and Stupa capacity will be limited.
* Day Visitors will be required to wear masks and maintain appropriate physical distance from others while at SMC.