

Regional Bahá'í Council of the Northeastern States

Connecticut • Maine • Massachusetts • New Hampshire • New Jersey • New York

Pennsylvania • Rhode Island • Vermont

September 23, 2020

To Spiritual Assemblies, cluster agencies, registered groups, and individual believers

Dear Friends,

With continued pandemic conditions in the region, some of the friends are asking if there are any changes to the restrictions for activities being planned by Bahá'í institutions, agencies, or individuals. Certainly, the principle of uppermost importance is always a heartfelt concern for the health of the Bahá'ís, their families, friends, and collaborators in the wider community, particularly those who are at greatest risk. Additionally, it is advisable to examine thoroughly the instructions provided by local medical and governmental agencies. Beyond this, it is important to know that for any Bahá'í activities such as institute camps, overnight gatherings, medium to large gatherings, and meetings including individuals who travel from outside of a local area, the permission of the Regional Bahá'í Council is required. Permission will not be granted to Bahá'í gatherings that do not include enforcing the wearing of masks, social distancing of at least 6 feet apart, and non-sharing of objects. Moreover, additional precautions might also be required.

In conjunction with the CDC guidelines, the following two types of activities are currently permitted for Bahá'í activities when the instructions of local medical and governmental agencies agree. Please note that because regulations regarding the number of people permitted at gatherings varies according to guidelines of governmental authorities, the judgment of what number consists of “smaller” gatherings is determined according to the location of the gathering.

Lowest risk: Virtual-only activities, events, and gatherings.

More risk: Smaller outdoor and in-person gatherings in which individuals from different households remain spaced at least 6 feet apart, wear masks, do not share objects, and come from the same local area (e.g., community, town, city, or county).

If you have questions, you can reach the Regional Council at secretary@rbcne.usbnc.org

With warm Bahá'í greetings,

Regional Bahá'í Council of the Northeastern States

Marie McNair, Secretary

Cc Counselor Farah Guchani-Rosenberg
Auxiliary Board members
Regional Training Institute Board