

AAUW Covid-19 Guidelines – Elgin Branch

We are in the midst of a pandemic. The times we live in and how we respond to Covid-19 is constantly changing. Therefore we need to be flexible and know these guidelines may change, depending upon what is happening in our state and in our country.

These guidelines are based on Restore IL and the 5-phase plan put into effect by Governor Pritzker as well as best practices as identified by the CDC (Center for Disease Control) and WHO (World Health Organization). As a branch, we do not have our own physical space, so we recognize that we will also need to adhere to the guidelines at the places we meet, when and if we do this. As of the development of this list, we are in Phase 4.

We also understand that many of our members are in high risk categories. We do not want to put anyone at risk, but rather prioritize the health of everyone.

1. Meeting via Zoom or other video conferencing program is the preferred option for both small and large group gatherings. Many AAUW chapters are restricting their events to video conferencing only for the coming year, until we enter Phase 5.
2. Anyone who is not feeling well should stay home as it puts others at risk.
3. Committees or program offerings may choose to meet in person, but if so, whenever possible should offer the meeting also in Zoom (or similar program) to include all members who may not feel safe or be at risk.
4. If meeting in person, outdoors is strongly preferred as it is safer than indoors. The risk when meeting indoors goes up dramatically.
5. If meeting in person, regardless of where they meet, everyone will practice social distancing of 6 ft and wear a mask at all times, with the following exception, if more than 6 feet apart and outside, the mask may be removed. If inside, masks will be worn at all times.
6. Each group leader must keep a list of all attendees to a function for two weeks for contact tracing should an outbreak happen.
7. Sanitizer will be made available at each meeting/gathering, provided by the host.
8. No coffee or refreshments will be made available; however, people may bring their own beverages and meal, if appropriate.
9. No gatherings will be more than 50, per state guidelines.
10. If and when there is a gathering, we will honor any additional safety guidelines set up by the host facility.