

Dear AAUW Colorado Springs Branch Members,

As we eagerly anticipate meeting in-person after a year of Zooms, it's important to acknowledge two recent pieces of information related to the rise of the COVID-19 Delta variant.

- 1) A communication from AAUW National in response to our inquiry, urging AAUW branches to be conservative in their approach to in-person meetings
- 2) A recommendation from the CDC that all participants in indoor meetings should be masked in areas of the country where the Delta variant is widespread, which currently includes El Paso County

While individual member opinions and beliefs vary, the Board felt it important to create a COVID-19 policy that reflects current CDC policy, AAUW national recommendations, and any applicable state or local ordinances to support the continued health of our members, guests, and their families, and to protect our branch against potential liability. That policy is attached, and we ask that each member open and read it.

Per the CDC recommendation, **all AAUW Colorado Springs branch members and guests must wear masks at indoor branch, interest group, and committee meetings, regardless of vaccination status.** (Masks may be removed while actively eating or drinking but should be worn between sips and bites and when moving around the room.) For outdoor meetings, unvaccinated participants should be masked, while those who have been vaccinated may use their own discretion.

Please remember that there are multiple reasons why someone may not have been vaccinated, including personal beliefs, significant allergies, compromised immunity, co-morbidities, and prior COVID infection. While the CDC encourages all who are eligible to be vaccinated, it is not our job to question or ostracize those

who have not been. Until the CDC recommendation changes, we will wear masks indoors to protect ourselves, protect others and protect our organization.

A version of our COVID 19 policy to post as a sign is also attached. **This sign is to be displayed at all AAUW branch, interest group, and committee meetings until further notice.**

Going forward, the Board will review and update this policy as needed to reflect any changes to CDC and AAUW recommendations and state and local ordinances. If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact Cindi Zenkert-Strange, President-elect, cmzenkertstrange@gmail.com, 317-650-1005.

Thanks for all you've done to help sustain AAUW during these challenging times!

On behalf of the Board

Cindi Zenkert-Strange

President-Elect