

Guidelines for Preparing to Re-open Faith-based Organizations

These guidelines are intended for application in non-health care related places of employment. The foundation guidelines for businesses and employers remains the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)'s Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers to Plan and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#).

General Guidelines that Apply to All

All organizations have to determine how best to minimize the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace as well as in their community. In order to re-open and successfully remain open for business, everyone individually and collectively must actively participate in the core recommendations:

1. Self-isolation – if you are sick, stay home,
2. Practice social distancing of at least six feet distance between non-household members to the greatest extent possible,
3. Wash hands frequently (20 seconds with soap and water or use of a sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol),
4. Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects (e.g., keyboards, phones) and surfaces (e.g., handrails, workstations, sinks) or remove unnecessary frequently touched surfaces (e.g., trash can lids),
5. Avoid touching of eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands,
6. Strongly consider wearing a cloth face covering when in public (do not use on children under two years old, people with difficulty breathing, or people who cannot remove the mask themselves)
7. Cover mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze and throw used tissues away immediately after use,
8. Avoid using other employees' phones, desks, offices or other work tools and equipment when possible, or disinfect them before and after use,
9. Minimize the use of soft surfaces like cloth covered chairs or area rugs that are more difficult to clean or disinfect.

Guidelines Specifically for Faith-based Organizations

In addition to the above safe-practices, Faith-based Organizations should comply with the following additional guidelines when they choose to open in order to minimize the potential for transmission and spread of COVID-19.

1. Communicate the above general guidelines to your parishioners/clients/communities.
2. Prevent gatherings of people in entry and exit points and lobby areas.
3. Encourage parishioners/clients/communities who are not feeling well to stay home.
4. Continue to support your parishioners/clients/communities with essential services such as: meals, mental and spiritual health, and social services programs while following the general guidelines listed above.
5. Encourage parishioners/clients/communities to routinely check on their friends and neighbors and to spread the word that we are all in this together.
6. Follow [CDC guidelines](#) regarding cleaning and disinfecting.
7. Encourage people at high risk for severe illness to not attend in-person. Provide call-in or online viewing opportunities.
8. Discourage direct contact between non-household members, such as handshakes or hugs.
9. Eliminate the use of frequently touched items like offering plates. Remove items from pews such as hymnals. Provide service information in a disposable paper format.

Based on Information Available as of May 6, 2020

It is very important that all members of this alliance, sector, etc. understand that while these guidelines are voluntary, it is in everyone's best interest to diligently follow them as we move to re-open our economy and keep it open.