



Based on Information Available as of October 21, 2020, Guidelines for 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). According to Executive Order 2020-63, Faith based organizations, services, and related events (examples are weddings, wedding receptions, funerals, etc.) are exempt from the Gatherings over 250 Event Approval Process.

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 for Faith Based Organizations

Guidelines are updated frequently to align with modifications from the CDC and executive orders.



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 COVID19. The CDC has [Faith-based Organizations guidelines](#) for additional reference.

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 using EPA approved products.
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. Consistent with the community's faith tradition, consider temporarily limiting the sharing of frequently touched objects, such as worship aids, prayer rugs, prayer books, hymnals, religious texts and other bulletins, books, or other items passed or shared among congregants, and encouraging congregants to bring their own such items, if possible, or photocopying or projecting prayers, songs, and texts using electronic means.
10. Modify the methods used to receive financial contributions. Consider a stationary collection box or electronic methods of collection regular financial contributions instead of shared collection trays or baskets.
11. If food is offered at any event, consider pre-packaged options, and avoid buffet or family-style meals if possible.
12. Consider training all clergy and staff in managing services with COVID-19 in mind. Consider conducting the training virtually, or, if in-person, ensure that social distancing is maintained.
13. Plan for when a staff member or congregant becomes sick by identifying an area to separate them and establish procedures for safe transport to home or healthcare facility.

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14. Plan to post signs in highly visible locations (e.g., entrances, restrooms, gathering halls/community rooms/gyms) that promote everyday protective measures and describe how to stop the spread of germs (such as by properly washing hands and properly wearing a mask).

Based on information available as of October 21, 2020 it is important that all members of this sector 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.

DISCLAIMER: The information provided in this document is for general informational purposes and to help you make informed decisions. Notwithstanding any and all Federal and State requirements, re-opening and resuming activities are at your own discretion.

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