



PLACES OF WORSHIP

STOP THE SPREAD CHECKLIST

These standards are supplementary to general business standards which all businesses should adhere to at a minimum. Businesses should adhere to all additional Federal, State, and local standards required for their industry.

Places of Worship will follow guidelines for social distancing, safety, health, and hygiene standards as set forth by guidance released by the CDC: Interim Guidance for Communities of Faith and as described by State and local guidelines. Communicate clearly with staff and congregants about actions being taken to protect their health.

Places of worship will limit the size of in-person gatherings in which would allow for social distancing measures to be met that are in accordance with state and local standards. Consider offering gatherings through video streaming, virtually or drive-in for vulnerable populations.

Promote healthy hygiene practices

- Strongly recommend the use of a cloth face covering at all gatherings and when in the building by everyone except children aged less than 2 years old. Not using a cloth face covering may also be appropriate at times for some individuals who have trouble breathing or need assistance to remove their mask.
- Have adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors, including soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol (for staff and older children who can safely use hand sanitizer), tissues, and no-touch trash cans.
- Consider posting signs on how to stop the spread of COVID-19 and promote everyday protective measures, such as washing hands and covering coughs and sneezes and properly wearing a face covering.

Intensify cleaning, disinfection, and ventilation

- Follow CDC guidance for proper and frequent disinfection of most touched surfaces and seating.
- Review disinfectants listed by the EPA as most effective.

Social distancing measures

- If appropriate and possible, add additional services to weekly schedules to maintain social distancing at

each service, ensuring that clergy, staff, and volunteers at the services maintain social distancing to lessen their risk.

- Consider holding services and gatherings in a large, well-ventilated area or outdoors, as circumstances and faith traditions allow.
- Space out seating for attendees who do not live in the same household to at least six feet apart when possible; consider limiting seating to alternate rows.
- Consider whether other gatherings may need to have attendance limited or be held virtually if social distancing is difficult, such as funerals, weddings, religious education classes, youth events, support groups and any other programming.
- Avoid or consider suspending use of a choir or musical ensemble during religious services or other programming, if appropriate within the faith tradition. Consider having a soloist or strictly limiting the number of choir members and keep at least six feet between individuals.
- Consider having clergy hold virtual visits (by phone or online) instead of in homes or at the hospital except for certain compassionate care situations, such as end of life.
- Consider temporarily limiting the sharing of frequently touched objects, such as worship aids, prayer books, hymnals, religious texts and other bulletins, and encourage congregants to bring their own, if possible. Consider photocopying or projecting prayers, songs, and texts using electronic means.
- Modify the methods used to receive financial contributions. Consider a stationary collection box, the mail, or electronic methods of collecting regular financial contributions instead of shared collection trays or baskets.
- Consider mitigating the risk of transmitting COVID-19 posed by close physical contact among members of the faith community during religious rituals as well as mediated contact through frequently touched objects, consistent with the community's faith traditions and in consultation with local health officials as needed.
- If food is offered at any event, have pre-packaged boxes or bags for each attendee whenever possible, instead of a buffet or family-style meal.
- Avoid food offerings shared from common dishes.

