



A Framework for Planning Worship and Religious Services during the COVID-19 Pandemic

ACTIVITIES	MODIFICATIONS TO REDUCE RISK	CURRENT GUIDANCE	SPECIFIC CONSIDERATIONS
Worship services	Implement Workplace Specific Plan if resuming worship or religious services.	As of May 26, 2020, 5 pm, places of worship and religious services can resume, but must limit the attendance to 25% of building capacity or a maximum of 100 attendees, whichever is lower. Virtual services and other worship-related gatherings should continue to be made available as much as possible (Zoom, social media platforms, such as Facebook Live, etc.)	Elderly and those with chronic illness are advised to not attend because of greater severity of illness if infected.
Cleaning and Disinfecting	Disinfect high-contact areas before and after worship and in preparation of the next service.	Develop a cleaning schedule and team of volunteers that will be responsible for required cleaning and disinfecting. If your faith community provides multiple services in a day, schedule services far enough apart to allow for cleaning and disinfecting of high-touch surfaces. Ensure that sanitary facilities always stay operational and stocked and provide additional soap, paper towels, toilet paper, and hand sanitizer. Hand sanitizer or disinfecting wipes are located at all entrances and exits.	
Worship materials	Prayer books, hymnals, bulletins, worship aids or other items are not to be shared among congregants.	Congregants may bring their own books, communion, or other worship materials to services or other faith gatherings.	Any worship materials that are brought by a family can not be shared with anyone outside of that family group.
Singing during worship	Singing is not allowed.	Use alternate singing and group recitation modalities (i.e., Internet live, recorded streaming, telephone, etc.) for indoor services.	
Greeting time	Don't shake hands or hug, but still greet each other.	Determine other types of greetings that do not require contact with someone outside of your family group.	
Offering	The passing of offering plates/baskets shall be discontinued.	Implement a stationary collection box or electronic collection methods.	
Communion	Using and/or sharing of a common cup, and distribution of communion is not allowed.	Provide pre-packed communion items on chairs prior to service.	
Sunday school (elementary school/ kindergarten)	In person faith formation/Sunday school is not allowed.	Virtual/Livestream Sunday school/faith formation can be made available as much as possible using Zoom, social media platforms, interactive websites, etc.	Need to educate parents children may have no or a mild illness but can transmit to adults.
Fellowship groups meeting in-homes	In-person fellowship meetings are not allowed with congregants who are not part of your household.	Consider using online, virtual/livestream options for fellowship group meetings. (Zoom, social media platforms, interactive websites, etc.)	Groups in home settings tend to be smaller and people know each other so they are more able to keep sick people away. Groups with children pose greater risk. Elderly participants or those with chronic illness have greater risk.