



Considerations for Returning to In-person Worship

Being Church Together During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Updated May 12, 2020

Introduction

As ELCA congregations face difficult decisions regarding when and how they will be able to gather again for worship, this resource offers general guidance. Please note that this not a comprehensive, one-size-fits-all resource; it will need to be interpreted and adapted for your local context. In many, if not most contexts, it will not be safe or advisable to gather for in-person worship for some time. National, state, and local medical and legal guidelines will need to be consulted and followed. While risk is not avoidable, this guidance is presented with the aim of reducing the level of risk for your community. Your pastor and congregational leaders will want to carefully consider:

- legally binding orders
- the safety of the community and congregation
- recommendations from health officials¹
- recommendations from your synod office
- insurer loss-control recommendations and your insurance policy
- following state guidelines and federal guidelines for a three-phased approach to opening.² Of particular note are the criteria for moving from strict physical distancing (Phase 1) to a staged reopening (Phase 2):
 - (1) The number of new cases has declined for at least 14 days.
 - (2) Rapid diagnostic testing capacity is sufficient to test, at minimum, all people with COVID-19 symptoms, including mild cases, as well as their close contacts and those in essential roles.
 - (3) The health care system is able to safely care for all patients, including providing appropriate personal protective equipment for health care workers.
 - (4) There is sufficient public health capacity to conduct contact tracing for all new cases and their close contacts.

Be mindful that the “staged” or “phased” approach presented in a number of resources will likely not be a linear one; there may be times of gradual reopening as infections decrease, followed by restrictions if new waves of infections emerge.

In all situations, you will want to err on the side of love for your neighbor and know that change will be inevitable. Patience, grace, and flexibility will be necessary as you strive to make the most appropriate

¹ “Community and Faith-Based Organizations: Plan, Prepare, and Respond,” Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/index.html>.

² “National Coronavirus Response: A Road Map to Reopening,” American Enterprise Institute, <https://www.aei.org/research-products/report/national-coronavirus-response-a-road-map-to-reopening/>; “Public Health Principles for a Phased Reopening During COVID-19: Guidance for Governors,” Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Center for Health Security, https://www.centerforhealthsecurity.org/our-work/pubs_archive/pubs-pdfs/2020/200417-reopening-guidance-governors.pdf; and “Guidelines: Opening Up America Again,” <https://www.whitehouse.gov/openingamerica/>.

decisions for the people of God in your place at this time. In addition to worship planning, it will be helpful to spend time reflecting upon on what you have done online or in-person, as this time will likely lead to new insights and discoveries for your worshipping community.

Please note that resources in this document have been gathered from many sources, including several linked throughout this document. We are grateful to synod and ecumenical colleagues for the insights they have provided.

Part I: General Considerations

Preparation and Communication

- Assess the risks associated with decisions you will make about the timing and extent of returning to in-person gatherings.³
- When you prepare to return to in-person worship, and throughout this time, be sure to communicate clearly with your congregation through all appropriate channels, including: mail, newsletters, email, websites, and social media. Identify and address potential language and cultural barriers and barriers associated with having different abilities so that all can access the information you need to communicate.
- Review the church's membership rolls and designate leaders or teams to check in on members in ways that are safe and appropriate. Make extra efforts to connect with those who live alone, have suffered loss and grief, are less comfortable with technology, or struggle with mental health concerns.
- Use clear signage that describes church policies and best hygiene practices.
- Follow guidelines for cleaning and disinfecting all spaces prior to people returning.⁴
- Ask people not to attend worship if they are feeling ill, have been exposed to COVID-19, have compromised immune systems, or are at high risk of exposing others. Let them know they are welcome to participate in other ways such as online worship and protect those at high risk from any social stigma associated with their decision not to attend.

Physical Building and Grounds

- Study what is possible or not for your worshipping community, including "drive-up" worshipping options where worshipers remain in their cars for the duration of the event. Consider initial small gatherings held outdoors (where this is an option). Research all applicable local fire codes and seek the advice of the local fire department.
- Determine if your normally-used worship space is the most suitable space in your building for gathering at this time. Are there larger rooms, such as a fellowship hall, if your worship space is small?
- Close spaces/rooms in the building where people do not need to be.
- Map clear routes of movement from the entryway into the worship space, and plan ways to maintain physical distancing while people move along those routes.
- As applicable, set HVAC systems to introduce fresh air into the worship space and/or open windows and doors to encourage fresh air over recycled air.
- Make preparations for restroom distancing. Limit the number who may enter at the same time, using tape on the floor for those waiting in order to maintain proper physical distancing.

³ See "The Importance of Risk Assessment," p. 8, in "Public Health Principles for a Phased Reopening During COVID-19," Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Center for Health Security, https://www.centerforhealthsecurity.org/our-work/pubs_archive/pubs-pdfs/2020/200417-reopening-guidance-governors.pdf.

⁴ "Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility," Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html>.

- Do not provide nursery care at this time.
- Remove materials from the worship and gathering spaces such as bibles, hymnals, pens, information cards, welcome pads, children’s bags, etc.
- Remove any items made with soft/porous materials (rugs/chairs/cushions), if possible, to reduce challenges for cleaning and disinfecting them.
- Consider not handing out bulletins. Projection onto a screen may be an alternative in some worship spaces. If possible, pre-place bulletins in the sections where seating is allowed. This will provide another visual cue for physical distancing.

Hygiene and Safety

- Provide hand sanitizer at all entrances and in the pews/seating area.
- Clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces daily. Overall cleaning and disinfection should happen at regular intervals, especially after and between worship/events.
- Require face masks/coverings; have some available for those who arrive without them.⁵
- Continue to encourage good hygiene practices.

Physical Distancing

- Offer multiple services with fewer attendees instead of one or two services (see provisional timeline below).
- Encourage people to sign up for worship services in advance, up to a set number, while still allowing for a few new people to drop in. This will be helpful in maintaining a record of who was physically present in the event a case is identified and assistance is needed with contact tracing.
- Make preparations and plans for reorganizing seating when necessary. This is easier with flexible seating; fixed pews are more of a challenge. Use tape to close off rows in order to guide worshipers to sit at least six feet from each other, such as every third row. This does not apply to family members in a single household.
- Limit people’s movement in worship to reduce their occupying of the same air space and the likelihood of inadvertent close contact.
- Consider how ushers and greeters will guide those entering and exiting in new ways that maintain proper physical distancing.

Speaking, Singing, and Playing Instruments in Worship

- Singing together, even from a distance, is one of the riskiest behaviors due to the spread of aerosol and droplets that can carry the virus a significant distance and remain suspended in the air. A cloth mask is unlikely to protect you or your neighbor. For more about communal singing at this time, see a webinar offered by the National Association of Teachers of Singing and others.⁶
- Similar caution applies to unison speaking, such as reciting the Lord’s Prayer and other communal speech.
- Like singing, playing a wind instrument initiates a spread of aerosol and droplets and poses a strong risk of infection.

⁵ “Recommendation Regarding the Use of Cloth Face Coverings, Especially in Areas of Significant Community-Based Transmission,” Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>.

⁶ “A Conversation: What Do Science and Data Say About the Near Term Future of Singing,” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DFI3GsVzj6Q&t=1574s>, and “Church Music in the Age of COVID-19,” Wisconsin Council of Churches, <https://www.wichurches.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Returning-to-Church-Church-Music-final.pdf>.

- Consider how church musicians can best be supported financially and otherwise during this difficult time.
- Feature instrumental music and find other ways for worshipers to participate: for instance, clapping, moving in rhythm, or using small percussion instruments.
- When and where it is safe to do so, feature music from soloists or small ensembles, with the congregation praying through attentive listening.
- Use online worship opportunities and soloists or small ensembles to teach and learn new songs from the hymnal or other sources; have a song of the week or month and invite worshipers to sing it at home.
- Encourage members to order hymnals to keep and use at home, especially if they must continue to worship at home for some time.

Worship Practices

- Refrain from passing a collection plate or basket during the offering; have stations where people can place offerings and/or provide them with online giving options.
- Omit offering processions where others handle money/plates or communion vessels.
- Provide alternate methods of sharing the peace outside of family households. These could include the exchange of words, waves, offering a reverent bow, or using American Sign Language.
- Avoid greeting “receiving lines” at the door before and after worship.

Holy Baptism

- Keep baptismal fonts empty of water or, if they are filled as a visual reminder, discourage the practice of remembering your baptism by touching the water.
- Sanitize the font and fill it with fresh water before a baptism.

Holy Communion

- The practice of sharing in Holy Communion is not advised until well into the final phases of gatherings of 50 or more people (see below).
- Those preparing and serving communion should sanitize their hands immediately before distributing communion; doing so in view of the congregation may help in reducing anxiety.
- During the Great Thanksgiving, the presiding minister may stand back from the table and not further touch the bread and cup.
- Congregations should refrain from kneeling or standing close together at a communion rail or in a line.
- Wafers may be a safer option than bread during this time. A package of wafers can be emptied onto a paten with minimal touch. Bread requires more handling.
- Common cup and intinction are not recommended.
- If distributing wine in small glasses in trays, ensure that the glasses are spaced far enough apart to minimize people’s touching of other glasses.
- Communion in one kind may be encouraged. A chalice may also be filled with a minimal amount of wine, and communicants could reverence the cup while not partaking of the wine, still hearing the words “the blood of Christ, shed for you.”
- The use of pre-filled, disposable wine and wafer cups may appear to be convenient and safer but are not without risk; they are also challenging to open and may be cost-prohibitive.

Worship Leadership

- Worship leaders may not need to wear masks if they are over six feet away (an analogy for this would be public health officials who do not wear masks for press conferences when following

physical distancing protocol). Leaders may still choose to wear masks and should if they come into closer proximity with others.

- Presiding ministers should use a stand, chair, etc., for books rather than have these held by an assisting minister.
- Preachers and presiders must be mindful of physical distancing when speaking, especially because leaders need to project their voices.
- Leaders should refrain from greeting worshippers at the door before or after worship.

Part II: Provisional Timeline by Size of Gathering

The following guidance is organized based on the size of the in-person gathering. In general, keep in mind:

- Congregations will need to refrain from in-person worship until it is safe and advisable to do so; this may be longer than anticipated and decisions will need to be clearly communicated.
- Continuing to provide online resources, home worship resources, or other tangible connection is encouraged even when 50 or more can gather. This is for the sake of those 65 or older, vulnerable, or afraid to gather in person.
- During this time you are encouraged to hold [daily prayer in the home](#). Even when we cannot sing together in community, singing at home is encouraged.
- Congregational leaders need to know how many people their worship space can hold if they are worshipping in family groups and sitting six feet apart, and should manage movement into and out of the building and worship space.
- Be mindful of the workload of leaders if they begin to offer worship both online and in-person, as this will require additional preparation. Also, consider additional compensation for janitorial staff when more frequent cleaning is necessary.

No gathering in-person, complete physical distancing (Federal Guideline Phase 1):

- Worship remains online or in the home.
- Worship leaders conduct online worship from home.
- Use technology in a way that helps those participating from home feel like active participants rather than passive observers.
- See the ELCA's guidelines on "virtual worship."⁷

Church activities restricted to 10 people or fewer:

- Regular Sunday worship is held online.
- Leaders may begin recording in the church building/worship space (if they have been doing this from home) while maintaining at least six feet of space between people and a greater distance between those who are singing.
- The church building might be opened for individual prayer at prearranged times and with face masks and proper physical distancing (at least six feet).
- The church building may be used to conduct funerals or weddings but only for immediate family (fewer than 10 people).
- High-risk individuals (people over 65 or with underlying conditions), including staff, continue to shelter in place. Consider alternative in-person leadership if staff members are over 65 or have underlying conditions that put them at risk.

⁷ "Worship Resources," Evangelical Lutheran Church in America," <https://www.elca.org/publichealth>.

- Bible studies and other small groups may continue to meet online. Staff might consider limited meetings at the church with appropriate physical distancing.
- Consider posting signs about noncontact greetings and refraining from shaking hands or hugging, as well as other practices or measures put into place.
- Churches will need extensive cleaning/sanitation prior to people returning to the building and between other in-person gatherings. Measures will be increased as groups grow larger than 5 to 10 people.
- Communicate with the congregation about preparations being made for returning to in-person worship when such worship is safe.

Church activities restricted to 50 people or fewer (Federal Guideline Phase 2):

- Review guidance above in “Part I: General Considerations.”
- Consider whether in-person worship is or is not advisable in your context (under 65, no underlying conditions).
- Institute increased sanitation/cleaning and hygiene measures at church.
- Congregations with greater than 50 average worship attendance might want to consider additional services with cleaning occurring between services. Consider other small-group options as well.
- Maintain physical distancing in worship (at least six feet, excluding households). If the worship space has pews, limit one family unit per pew; keep empty pews between families.
- Close common areas (fellowship halls, church offices, coffee spaces).
- Refrain from communion, handshakes, passing offering plates, and handing out printed bulletins.
- Worshipers wear masks at all times.
- Consider other in-person leadership if leaders are over 65 or have underlying conditions that put them at risk.

Church activities open for more than 50 people (Federal Guideline Phase 3):

- Maintain increased sanitation/cleaning and hygiene measures at church.
- Resume in-person worship with other members (insofar as they feel comfortable doing so).
- Continue online worship for those who still cannot gather.
- Resume communion, etc., with additional precautionary measures.
- Physical distancing may be relaxed and masks may become optional in some places based on various factors and recommendations from officials.

Suggestions and Links to Other Resources

ELCA.org/PublicHealth: Resources to help leaders and members stay connected and resilient during COVID-19. <https://www.elca.org/PublicHealth>

“Returning to Church”: The Wisconsin Council of Churches offers helpful guidance. <https://www.wichurches.org/2020/04/23/returning-to-church/> Other information is available at <https://www.wichurches.org/2020/03/11/coronavirus>.

“Returning to Public Worship: Theological and Practical Considerations”: Guidance from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). https://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/covid-19/returning_to_public_worship_may_2020.pdf

On May 5, 2020, the Minneapolis Area Synod hosted a conversation with Dr. Michael Osterholm, Regents Professor, McKnight Presidential Endowed Chair in Public Health, and director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy (CIDRAP) at the University of Minnesota. You can find the link to this presentation at <https://mpls-synod.org>.

For more on congregational singing, see the website for the National Association of Teachers of Singing, <https://www.nats.org>.

Consult the following national and state resources:

“Coronavirus (COVID-19),” Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/>.

“Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) Pandemic,” World Health Organization, <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>.

“National Coronavirus Response: A Road Map to Reopening,” American Enterprise Institute, <https://www.aei.org/research-products/report/national-coronavirus-response-a-road-map-to-reopening/>.

“Public Health Principles for a Phased Reopening During COVID-19: Guidance for Governors,” Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Center for Health Security, https://www.centerforhealthsecurity.org/our-work/pubs_archive/pubs-pdfs/2020/200417-reopening-guidance-governors.pdf.

“Guidelines: Opening Up America Again,” <https://www.whitehouse.gov/openingamerica/>.



COVID-19 INDUSTRY GUIDANCE:

Places of Worship and Providers of Religious Services and Cultural Ceremonies

July 29, 2020

covid19.ca.gov



OVERVIEW

On March 19, 2020, the State Public Health Officer and Director of the California Department of Public Health issued an order requiring most Californians to stay at home to disrupt the spread of COVID-19 among the population.

The impact of COVID-19 on the health of Californians is not yet fully known. Reported illness ranges from very mild (some people have no symptoms) to severe illness that may result in death. Certain groups, including people aged 65 or older and those with serious underlying medical conditions, such as heart or lung disease or diabetes, are at higher risk of hospitalization and serious complications. Transmission is most likely when people are in close contact or in a poorly ventilated area with an infected person, even if that person does not have any symptoms or has not yet developed symptoms.

Precise information about the number and rates of COVID-19 by industry or occupational groups, including among critical infrastructure workers, is not available at this time. There have been multiple outbreaks in a range of workplaces, indicating that workers are at risk of acquiring or transmitting COVID-19 infection. Examples of these workplaces include places of worship, hospitals, long-term care facilities, prisons, food production, warehouses, meat processing plants, and grocery stores.

As stay-at-home orders are modified, it is essential that all possible steps be taken to ensure the safety of workers and the public.

Key prevention practices include:

- ✓ physical distancing to the maximum extent possible,
- ✓ use of face coverings by workers and volunteers (where respiratory protection is not required) and congregants/visitors,
- ✓ frequent handwashing and regular cleaning and disinfection,
- ✓ training workers and volunteers on these and other elements of the COVID-19 prevention plan.

In addition, it will be critical to have in place appropriate processes to identify new cases of illness in workplaces and, when they are identified, to intervene quickly and work with public health authorities to halt the spread of the virus.

PURPOSE

This document provides guidance for places of worship and providers of religious services and cultural ceremonies (referred to collectively as “places of worship”) to support a safe, clean environment for workers, interns and trainees, volunteers, scholars, and all other types of workers as well as congregants, worshippers, visitors, etc. (referred to collectively as “visitors” or “congregants”). This guidance does not obligate places of worship to resume in-person activity. Further, it is strongly recommended that places of worship continue to facilitate remote

services and other related activities for those who are vulnerable to COVID-19 including older adults and those with co-morbidities.

Even with adherence to physical distancing, convening in a congregational setting of multiple different households to practice a personal faith carries a relatively higher risk for widespread transmission of the COVID-19 virus, and may result in increased rates of infection, hospitalization, and death, especially among more vulnerable populations. In particular, activities such as singing and chanting negate the risk-reduction achieved through six feet of physical distancing.

*Places of worship must therefore discontinue indoor singing and chanting activities and limit *indoor* attendance to 25% of building capacity or a maximum of 100 attendees, whichever is lower. Local Health Officers are advised to consider appropriate limitations on *outdoor* attendance capacities, factoring their jurisdiction's key COVID-19 health indicators. At a minimum, outdoor attendance should be limited naturally through implementation of strict physical distancing measures of a minimum of six feet between attendees from different households, in addition to other relevant protocols within this document.

This revised limitation will be subject to regular review by the California Department of Public Health in consultation with local Departments of Public Health to assess the impact of these imposed limits on public health and provide further direction as part of a phased-in restoration of activities in places of worship.

NOTE: This guidance is not intended for food preparation and service, delivery of items to those in need, childcare and daycare services, school and educational activities, in-home caregiving, counseling, office work, and other activities that places and organizations of worship may provide. Organizations that perform these activities must follow applicable guidance on the [COVID-19 Resilience Roadmap website](#).

The guidance is not intended to revoke or repeal any worker rights, either statutory, regulatory or collectively bargained, and is not exhaustive, as it does not include county health orders, nor is it a substitute for any existing safety and health-related regulatory requirements such as those of Cal/OSHA.¹ Stay current on changes to public health guidance and state/local orders, as the COVID-19 situation continues. Cal/OSHA has more safety and health guidance on their Cal/OSHA Guidance on Requirements to Protect Workers from Coronavirus [webpage](#). The CDC has additional guidance [for community- and faith-based organizations](#).

Required Use of Face Coverings

On June 18, CDPH issued [Guidance on the Use of Face Coverings](#), which broadly requires the use of face coverings for both members of the public and workers in all public and workplace settings where there is a high risk of exposure.

People in California must wear face coverings when they are engaged in work,

whether at the workplace or performing work off-site, when:

- Interacting in-person with any member of the public;
- Working in any space visited by members of the public, regardless of whether anyone from the public is present at the time;
- Working in any space where food is prepared or packaged for sale or distribution to others;
- Working in or walking through common areas, such as hallways, stairways, elevators, and parking facilities;
- In any room or enclosed area where other people (except for members of the person's own household or residence) are present when unable to physically distance;
- Driving or operating any public transportation or paratransit vehicle, taxi, or private car service or ride-sharing vehicle when passengers are present. When no passengers are present, face coverings are strongly recommended.

Complete details, including all requirements and exemptions to these rules, can be found in the [guidance](#). Face coverings are strongly encouraged in other circumstances, and employers can implement additional face covering requirements in fulfilling their obligation to provide workers with a safe and healthful workplace. Employers must provide face coverings to workers or reimburse workers for the reasonable cost of obtaining them.

Employers should develop an accommodation policy for any worker who meets one of the exemptions from wearing a face covering. If a worker who would otherwise be required to wear a face covering because of frequent contact with others cannot wear one due to a medical condition, they should be provided with a non-restrictive alternative, such as a face shield with a drape attached to the bottom edge, if feasible, and if the medical condition permits it.

Businesses that are open to the public should be cognizant of the exemptions to wearing face coverings in the [CDPH Face Covering Guidance](#) and may not exclude any member of the public for not wearing a face covering if that person is complying with the [guidance](#). Businesses will need to develop policies for handling these exemptions among customers, clients, visitors, and workers.



Workplace Specific Plan

- Establish a written, workplace-specific COVID-19 prevention plan at every location, perform a comprehensive risk assessment of all work areas and all work tasks, and designate a person at each workplace to implement the plan.
- Incorporate the [CDPH Face Covering Guidance](#) into the Workplace Specific Plan and include a policy for handling exemptions.
- Identify contact information for the local health department where the workplace is located for communicating information about COVID-19 outbreaks among workers and congregants/visitors.
- Train and communicate with workers and worker representatives on the plan and make the plan available to workers and their representatives.
- Regularly evaluate workplaces for compliance with the plan and document and correct deficiencies identified.
- Investigate any COVID-19 illness and determine if any work-related factors could have contributed to risk of infection. Update the plan as needed to prevent further cases.
- Implement the necessary processes and protocols when a workplace has an outbreak, in accordance with [CDPH guidelines](#).
- Identify close contacts (within six feet for 15 minutes or more) of an infected worker and take steps to isolate COVID-19 positive workers and close contacts.
- Adhere to the guidelines below. Failure to do so could result in workplace illnesses that may cause operations to be temporarily closed or limited.



Topics for Worker and Volunteer Training

- Information on [COVID-19](#), how to prevent it from spreading, and which underlying health conditions may make individuals more susceptible to contracting the virus.
- Self-screening at home, including temperature and/or symptom checks using [CDC guidelines](#).
- The importance of not coming to work or participating in activities
 - If a worker has symptoms of COVID-19 as [described by the CDC](#),

such as a fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea, OR

- If a worker was diagnosed with COVID-19 and has not yet been released from isolation, OR
- If within the past 14 days, a worker has had contact with someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 and is considered potentially infectious (i.e. still on isolation).
- To return to work after a worker receives a COVID-19 diagnosis only if 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared, their symptoms have improved, and the worker has had no fevers (without the use of fever reducing medications) for the last 72 hours. A worker without symptoms who was diagnosed with COVID-19 can return to work only if 10 days have passed since the date of the first positive COVID-19 test.
- To seek medical attention if their symptoms become severe, including persistent pain or pressure in the chest, confusion, or bluish lips or face. Updates and further details are available on [CDC's webpage](#).
- The importance of frequent handwashing with soap and water, including scrubbing with soap for 20 seconds (or using hand sanitizer with at least 60% ethanol or 70% isopropanol when workers cannot get to a sink or handwashing station, per [CDC guidelines](#)).
- The importance of physical distancing, both at work and off work time (see Physical Distancing section below).
- Proper use of face coverings, including:
 - Face coverings do not protect the wearer and are not personal protective equipment (PPE).
 - Face coverings can help protect people near the wearer, but do not replace the need for physical distancing and frequent handwashing.
 - Face coverings must cover the nose and mouth.
 - Workers should wash or sanitize hands before and after using or adjusting face coverings.
 - Avoid touching the eyes, nose, and mouth.
 - Face coverings must not be shared and should be washed or discarded after each shift.
- Information contained in the [CDPH Guidance for the Use of Face](#)

[Coverings](#), which mandates the circumstances in which face coverings must be worn and the exemptions, as well as any policies, work rules, and practices the employer has adopted to ensure the use of face coverings. Training should also include the employer's policies on how people who are exempted from wearing a face covering will be handled.

- Ensure all types of workers including temporary, independent contractors, and volunteer workers are also properly trained in COVID-19 prevention policies and have necessary PPE. Discuss these responsibilities ahead of time with organizations supplying temporary, contract, and/or volunteer staff.
- Information on paid leave benefits the worker may be entitled to receive that would make it financially easier to stay at home. See additional information on [government programs supporting sick leave and worker's compensation for COVID- 19](#), including worker's sick leave rights under the [Families First Coronavirus Response Act](#) and worker's rights to workers' compensation benefits and presumption of the work-relatedness of COVID-19 pursuant to the Governor's [Executive Order N-62-20 while that Order is in effect](#).



Individual Control Measures and Screening

- Provide temperature and/or symptom screenings for all workers at the beginning of their shift. Make sure the temperature/symptom screener avoids close contact with workers to the extent possible.
- If requiring self-screening at home, which is an appropriate alternative to providing it at the establishment, ensure that screening was performed prior to the worker and/or volunteer leaving the home for their shift and follows [CDC guidelines](#), as described in the Topics for Worker Training section above.
- Encourage workers and congregants/visitors who are sick or exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, or who have family members who are ill, to stay home.
- Employers must provide and ensure workers and volunteers use all required protective equipment, including eye protection and gloves, where necessary.
- Places of worship should consider where disposable gloves use may be helpful to supplement frequent handwashing or use of hand sanitizer; examples are for workers who are screening others for symptoms or handling commonly touched items. All workers and volunteers should wear gloves when handling items contaminated by body fluids.

- Workers, volunteers, etc., should not enter the home or visit someone who has tested positive for, exhibited symptoms of, or has been in contact with someone infected with COVID-19 for an appropriate waiting period as [described by CDC guidelines](#).
- Places of worship must take reasonable measures, including posting signage in strategic and highly-visible locations and in reservation confirmations, to remind congregants and visitors that they must use face coverings and practice physical distancing and should frequently wash their hands with soap for at least 20 seconds, use hand sanitizer, and not touch their face.
- Use social media, website, texts, email, newsletters, etc., to communicate the steps being taken to protect congregants/visitors and workers so that they are familiar with the policies (including to stay home if experiencing symptoms or are at increased risk of becoming sick, face coverings, physical distancing, handwashing and/or sanitizing, and cough etiquette), before arriving at the facility. Workers and volunteers are strongly encouraged to remind congregants/visitors of these practices with announcements during services or on welcoming guests.
- Remind congregants and visitors in advance to bring a face covering and make them available to anyone who arrives without one, if possible.
- Congregants/visitors should be screened for temperature and/or symptoms upon arrival to places of worship and asked to use hand sanitizer.



Cleaning and Disinfecting Protocols

- Perform thorough cleaning of high traffic areas such as lobbies, halls, chapels, meeting rooms, offices, libraries, and study areas and areas of ingress and egress including stairways, stairwells, handrails, and elevator controls. Frequently disinfect commonly used surfaces including doorknobs, toilets, handwashing facilities, pulpits and podiums, donation boxes or plates, altars, and pews and seating areas.
- Establish frequent cleaning and disinfection of personal work areas such as desks and cubicles and supply the necessary cleaning products. Provide time for workers to implement cleaning practices during their shift. Cleaning assignments should be assigned during working hours as part of the workers' job duties.
- Discourage sharing items used in worship and services (such as prayer books, cushions, prayer rugs, etc.) whenever possible and provide single-use or digital copies or ask congregants/visitors to bring personal items

instead. Avoid sharing work equipment and supplies, such as phones, office equipment, computers, etc., wherever possible. Never share PPE.

- Where such items must be shared, disinfect between shifts or uses, whichever is more frequent, including the following: shared office equipment (copiers, fax machines, printers, telephones, keyboards, staplers, etc.) and shared worship items, etc., with a cleaner appropriate for the surface.
- Ensure that sanitary facilities stay operational and stocked at all times and provide additional soap, paper towels, and hand sanitizer when needed. Consider more frequently cleaning and disinfecting handwashing facilities that are used more often. Use signage to reinforce handwashing.
- Disinfect microphones and stands, music stands, instruments and other items on pulpits and podiums between each use. Consult equipment manufacturers to determine appropriate disinfection steps, particularly for soft, porous surfaces such as foam mufflers.
- Consider using disposable seat covers for congregants/visitors, particularly on porous surfaces or where a facility has multiple daily services. Discard and replace seat covers between each use. Provide disposable or washable covers on pillows used as seating on floors and change/wash them after each use.
- Install hand sanitizer dispensers, touchless whenever possible, at entrances and contact areas such as meeting rooms, lobbies, and elevator landings.
- When choosing disinfecting chemicals, establishments should use products approved for use against COVID-19 on the [Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)-approved](#) list and follow product instructions. Use disinfectants labeled to be effective against emerging viral pathogens, diluted household bleach solutions (5 tablespoons per gallon of water), or alcohol solutions with at least 70% alcohol that are appropriate for the surface. Provide workers training on the chemical hazards, manufacturer's directions, ventilation requirements, and Cal/OSHA requirements for safe use. Workers and volunteers using cleaners or disinfectants should wear gloves or other protective equipment as required by the product instructions. Follow the [asthma-safer cleaning methods recommended by the California Department of Public Health and ensure proper ventilation](#).
- Wash religious garments and linens after each service or event, at the highest water setting possible. Ask congregants/visitors to bring their own storage bags for personal garments and shoes. Workers, congregants, and visitors should wear gloves when handling others' dirty linens, shoes, etc.

- Discontinue passing offering plates and similar items that move between people. Use alternative giving options such as secure drop boxes that do not require opening/closing and can be cleaned and disinfected. Consider implementing digital systems that allow congregants/visitors to make touch-free offerings.
- Mark walking paths between spaces designated for congregants/visitors to sit/kneel so that people do not walk where someone may touch their head to the floor.
- During meetings and services, introduce fresh outside air, for example by opening doors/windows (weather permitting) and operating ventilation systems.
- Where possible, do not clean floors by sweeping or other methods that can disperse pathogens into the air. Use a vacuum with a HEPA filter wherever possible.
- Consider installing portable high-efficiency air cleaners, upgrading the building's air filters to the highest efficiency possible, and making other modifications to increase the quantity of outside air and ventilation in worship areas, offices, and other spaces.



Physical Distancing Guidelines

- Places of worship should continue to provide services through alternative methods (such as via internet live and/or recorded streaming, telephone, drive-in, etc.) whenever possible.
- Consider holding in-person meetings and providing in-person services outside whenever possible.
- Implement measures to ensure physical distancing of at least six feet between workers and congregants/visitors, etc. This can include use of physical partitions or visual cues (e.g., floor or pew markings or signs to indicate where people should sit and stand). Reconfigure seating and standing areas to maintain physical distancing of six feet or more between congregants/visitors from different households. Consider limiting seating to alternate rows. Members of the same household may be seated together but should maintain at least six feet of distance from other households.
- Consider dedicating workers to help people maintain distances during activities.
- Shorten services to limit the length of time congregants/visitors spend at facilities whenever possible. This could include limiting speeches, asking congregants/visitors to put on garments at home before arrival, etc.

- Close places of worship for visitation outside of scheduled services, meetings, etc., whenever possible.
- Consider implementing a reservation system to limit the number of congregants/visitors attending facilities at a time. This can include the use of digital platforms or other types of tools.
- Encourage congregants/visitors to meet with the same group, particularly when services meet frequently and/or require a certain number of people to be present. This can reduce the spread of transmission by minimizing the number of different individuals who come into close contact with each other.
- Consider offering additional meeting times (per day or per week) so that fewer guests attend meetings and services at one time. Clean meeting areas between each use as described in this guidance.
- Discontinue large gatherings that encourage congregants/visitors to travel and break physical distances during activities, such as concerts, large holiday and life event celebrations and remembrances.
- Children should remain in the care of those in their household unit and not interact with children of other parties at any time while visiting facilities. Close play areas and discontinue activities and services for children where physical distancing of at least six feet cannot be maintained.
- Encourage congregants/visitors to physically distance themselves from others outside their household, avoid touching surfaces, and to leave the facility if they do not feel well.
- Consider limiting touching for religious and/or cultural purposes, such as holding hands, to members of the same household.
- Dedicate workers to direct guests to meeting rooms upon entry to places of worship rather than congregating in lobbies or common areas. Consider using ushers to help people find places to sit and stand that are at least six feet apart from other guests/household groups. Ask congregants/visitors to arrive and leave in a single group to minimize crossflow of people. Welcome and dismiss congregants/visitors from altars, podiums, meeting rooms, etc. in an orderly way to maintain physical distancing and minimize crossflow of traffic, to the extent possible.
- Prop or hold doors open during peak periods when congregants/visitors are entering and exiting facilities, if possible and in accordance with security and safety protocols.
- Close or restrict common areas, such as break rooms, kitchenettes, foyers,

etc. where people are likely to congregate and interact. Consider installing barriers or increase physical distance between tables/seating when there is continued use of these areas.

- Remove from service or find low-community touch alternatives for communal/religious water containers such as fonts, sinks, and vessels. Empty and change water between uses. Where there is a possibility of contaminant splash, workers, congregants, visitors, etc., are strongly encouraged to use equipment to protect the eyes, nose, and mouth using a combination of face coverings, protective glasses, and/or face shields. Reusable protective equipment such as shields and glasses should be properly disinfected between uses.
- When washing is a required activity, modify practices whenever possible to limit splashing and the need to clean and disinfect washing facilities. Encourage necessary washing to be performed at home prior to entering a facility, if possible.
- Reconfigure podiums and speaker areas, office spaces, meeting rooms, conference rooms, etc., to allow for at least six feet between people.
- Establish directional hallways and passageways for foot traffic, if possible, and designate separate routes for entry and exit into meeting rooms, offices, etc., to help maintain physical distancing and lessen the instances of people closely passing each other.
- Limit the number of individuals riding in an elevator at a time. Post signage regarding these policies.
- Utilize practices, when feasible and necessary, to limit the number of workers and congregants/visitors in office, meeting spaces, etc., at one time. This may include scheduling (e.g. staggering start/end times), establishing alternating days for onsite reporting, returning to places of worship in phases, or continued use of telework when feasible.
- Consider offering workers and volunteers who request modified duties options that minimize their contact with congregants/visitors and other workers (e.g., office duties rather than working as an usher or managing administrative needs through telework).
- Stagger worker breaks, in compliance with wage and hour regulations, to maintain physical distancing protocols.
- Discontinue nonessential travel and encourage distance meetings via phone and internet.
- Close self-service item selection such as pamphlet displays and bookshelves and provide these items to congregants/visitors individually as necessary. Consider delivering items and information electronically.

- Consider limiting the number of people that use the restroom at one time to allow for physical distancing.
- Discourage workers, congregants, visitors, etc., from engaging in handshakes, hugs, and similar greetings that break physical distance. Take reasonable measures to remind people to wave or use other greetings.
- Reconfigure parking lots to limit congregation points and ensure proper separation (e.g., closing every other space). If performing drive-in services, ensure vehicle windows and doors are closed if six feet of distance is not possible between vehicles.
- Continue to support non-in person attendance of services and other related activities by those who are vulnerable to COVID-19 including older adults and those with co-morbidities.



Considerations for Places of Worship

- Discontinue offering self-service food and beverages. Do not hold potlucks or similar family-style eating and drinking events that increase the risk of cross contamination. If food and beverages must be served, provide items in single-serve, disposable containers whenever possible. Workers or volunteers serving food should wash hands frequently and wear disposable gloves.
- Discontinue singing (in rehearsals, services, etc.), chanting, and other practices and performances where there is increased likelihood for transmission from contaminated exhaled droplets. Consider practicing these activities through alternative methods (such as internet streaming) that ensure individual congregation members perform these activities separately in their own homes.
- Consider modifying practices that are specific to particular faith traditions that might encourage the spread of COVID-19. Examples are discontinuing kissing of ritual objects, allowing rites to be performed by fewer people, avoiding the use of a common cup, offering communion in the hand instead of on the tongue, providing pre-packed communion items on chairs prior to service, etc., in accordance with [CDC guidelines](#).



Considerations for Funerals

- Consider reduced visitor capacity and stagger visitation times at funerals, wakes, etc., if possible. Follow all cleaning and disinfection measures as described in this guidance. Whenever possible, remind visitors to maintain physical distance from each other, from workers and volunteers, and from the deceased.
- Consider modifying religious or cultural practices when washing or shrouding bodies of those who have died from COVID-19, in accordance with guidance from [CDPH](#) and the [CDC](#). If washing the body or shrouding are important religious or cultural practices, work with funeral home staff and families to reduce exposure as much as possible. All people participating in these activities must wear disposable gloves and if there will be splashing of fluids, people must use additional protective equipment including protection for the eyes, nose, and mouth, such as face shields.
- Consult and comply with local guidance regarding limits on gathering sizes, travel, holding funerals for those who died from COVID-19, etc.
- Consider other recommendations and modifications of services related to places of worship outlined above, as applicable for funeral services.

¹Additional requirements must be considered for vulnerable populations. Places of worship must comply with all [Cal/OSHA](#) standards and be prepared to adhere to its guidance as well as guidance from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) and the [California Department of Public Health \(CDPH\)](#). Additionally, places of worship must be prepared to alter their operations as those guidelines change.



Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Interim Guidance for Communities of Faith

CDC offers the following general considerations to help communities of faith discern how best to practice their beliefs while keeping their staff and congregations safe. Millions of Americans embrace worship as an essential part of life. For many faith traditions, gathering together for worship is at the heart of what it means to be a community of faith. But as Americans are now aware, gatherings present a risk for increasing spread of COVID-19 during this Public Health Emergency. CDC offers these suggestions for faith communities to consider and accept, reject, or modify, consistent with their own faith traditions, in the course of preparing to reconvene for in-person gatherings while still working to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

This guidance is not intended to infringe on rights protected by the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution or any other federal law, including the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 (RFRA). The federal government may not prescribe standards for interactions of faith communities in houses of worship, and in accordance with the First Amendment, no faith community should be asked to adopt any mitigation strategies that are more stringent than the mitigation strategies asked of similarly situated entities or activities.




In addition, we note that while many types of gatherings are important for civic and economic well-being, religious worship has particularly profound significance to communities and individuals, including as a right protected by the First Amendment. State and local authorities are reminded to take this vital right into account when establishing their own re-opening plans.

Scaling Up Operations

- Establish and maintain communication with local and State authorities to determine current mitigation levels in your community.
- Provide protections for staff and congregants at [higher risk for severe illness](#) from COVID-19. Offer options for staff at [higher risk for severe illness](#) (including older adults and people of all ages with certain underlying medical conditions) that limit their exposure risk. Offer options for congregants at [higher risk of severe illness](#) that limit their exposure risk (e.g., remote participation in services).
- Consistent with applicable federal and State laws and regulations, put in place policies that protect the privacy and confidentiality of people at [higher risk for severe illness](#) regarding underlying medical conditions.
- Encourage any organizations that share or use the facilities to also follow these considerations as applicable.
- If your community provides social services in the facility as part of its mission, consult CDC's information for [schools](#) and [businesses and workplaces](#), as relevant, for helpful information.

Safety Actions

Promote [healthy hygiene practices](#)

- Encourage staff and congregants to maintain good hand hygiene, [washing hands](#) with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Have adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors, including soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol (for those who can safely use hand sanitizer), tissues, and no-touch trash cans.
- Encourage staff and congregants to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or use the inside of their elbow. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash and hands washed.
- Whenever soap and water are not readily available, hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol can be used.
- Consider posting signs on how to [stop the spread](#)  of COVID-19 and how to [promote everyday protective measures](#) , such as [washing hands](#), covering coughs and sneezes, and [properly wearing a face covering](#) .

Cloth face coverings

- Encourage use of [cloth face coverings](#) among staff and congregants. Face coverings are most essential when [social distancing](#) is difficult. Note: [Cloth face coverings](#) should not be placed on children younger than 2 years old, anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious, and anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the cloth face covering without assistance. [Cloth face coverings](#) are meant to protect other people in case the wearer is unknowingly infected but does not have symptoms.

Intensify cleaning, disinfection, and ventilation

- [Clean and disinfect](#) frequently touched surfaces at least daily and shared objects in between uses.
- Develop a schedule of increased, routine cleaning and disinfection.
- Avoid use of items that are not easily cleaned, sanitized, or disinfected.
- Ensure [safe and correct application](#) of disinfectants and keep them away from children.
- Cleaning products should not be used near children, and staff should ensure that there is adequate ventilation when using these products to prevent children or themselves from inhaling toxic fumes.
- Ensure that ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible by opening windows and doors, using fans, etc. Do not open windows and doors if they pose a safety risk to children using the facility.
- If your faith community offers multiple services, consider scheduling services far enough apart to allow time for cleaning and disinfecting high-touch surfaces between services. [Take steps](#) to ensure that all water systems and features (for example, drinking fountains, decorative fountains) are safe to use after a prolonged facility shutdown to minimize the risk of [Legionnaires' disease](#) and other diseases associated with water.

Promote social distancing

- Take steps to limit the size of gatherings in accordance with the guidance and directives of state and local authorities and subject to the protections of the First Amendment and any other applicable federal law.
- Promote [social distancing](#) at services and other gatherings, ensuring that clergy, staff, choir, volunteers and attendees at the services follow social distancing, as circumstances and faith traditions allow, to lessen their risk.
- Consider holding services and gatherings in a large, well-ventilated area or outdoors, as circumstances and faith traditions allow.
- Consider appropriate mitigation measures, including taking steps to limit the size of gatherings maintaining [social distancing](#), at other gatherings such as funerals, weddings, religious education classes, youth events, support groups and any other programming, where consistent with the faith tradition.
- Provide physical guides, such as tape on floors or walkways and signs on walls, to ensure that staff and children remain at least 6 feet apart in lines and at other times (e.g. guides for creating "one-way routes" in hallways).

Take steps to minimize community sharing of worship materials and other items

- 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.
- Modify the methods used to receive financial contributions. Consider a stationary collection box, the main, or electronic methods of collection regular financial contributions instead of shared collection trays or baskets.
- Consider whether physical contact (e.g., shaking hands, hugging, or kissing) can be limited among members of the faith community.
- If food is offered at any event, consider pre-packaged options, and avoid buffet or family-style meals if possible.

Nursery/Childcare

- If a nursery or childcare will be provided during services and events, refer to CDC's information on [preventing the spread of COVID-19 in childcare settings](#) and adapt as needed for your setting.
- If holding summer day camps, refer to CDC's information on [youth and summer camps](#) and adapt as needed.

Staffing and Training

- Train all clergy and staff in the above safety actions. Consider conducting the training virtually, or, if in-person, ensure that [social distancing](#) is maintained.

Monitoring and Preparing

Check for [signs and symptoms](#)

- Encourage staff or congregants who are sick or who have had close contact with a person with COVID-19 to stay home. Share CDC's criteria for staying home with staff and congregants so that they know how to care for themselves and others. Consider posting signs at entrances with this information.

Plan for when a staff member or congregant becomes sick

- Identify an area to separate anyone who exhibits [symptoms](#) of COVID-19 during hours of operation, and ensure that children are not left without adult supervision.
- Establish procedures for safely transporting anyone who becomes [sick](#) at the facility to their home or a healthcare facility.
- Notify local health officials if a person diagnosed with COVID-19 has been in the facility and communicate with staff and congregants about potential exposure while maintaining confidentiality as required by the [Americans with Disabilities Act \(ADA\)](#) [↗](#) or other applicable laws and in accordance with religious practices.
- Advise those with [exposure](#) to a person diagnosed with COVID-19 to [stay home and self-monitor](#) for symptoms, and follow [CDC guidance](#) if symptoms develop.
- Close off areas used by the [sick](#) person and do not use the area until after cleaning and disinfection. Ensure [safe and correct application](#) of disinfectants and keep disinfectant products away from children.
- Advise staff and congregants with [symptoms](#) of COVID-19 or who have tested positive for COVID-19 not to return to the facility until they have met CDC's [criteria to discontinue home isolation](#).

Maintain healthy operations

- Implement flexible sick leave and related flexible policies and practices for staff (e.g., allow work from home, if feasible), and provide requested reasonable accommodation absent undue hardship to individuals with disabilities under the [Americans with Disabilities Act \(ADA\)](#) [↗](#) or other applicable laws and in accordance with religious practices.
- Monitor absenteeism and create a roster of trained back-up staff.
- Designate a staff person to be responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns. Staff, clergy, volunteers, and congregants should know who this person is and how to contact them if they become sick or are around others diagnosed with COVID-19. This person should also be aware of state or local regulatory agency policies related to group gatherings.
- As volunteers often perform important duties (e.g., greeters, ushers, childcare), consider similar monitoring, planning, and training for them. Consider that volunteer and staffing may need to increase to implement cleaning and safety protocols and to accommodate additional services with reduced attendance.
- Communicate clearly with staff and congregants about actions being taken to protect their health.

Signs and Messages

- 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 cloth face covering [👤](#)).

- Include messages (for example, [videos](#)) about behaviors that prevent the spread of COVID-19 when communicating with staff and congregants (such as in emails and on community websites and [social media accounts](#)).
- Find freely available CDC print and digital resources on CDC's [communications resources](#) main page.

Closing

- Check [state](#) and [local](#) [📄](#) health department notices daily about transmission in the community and adjust operations.
- In the event a person diagnosed with COVID-19 is determined to have been in the building and poses a risk to the community, it is strongly suggested to dismiss attendees, then properly clean and disinfect the area and the building where the individual was present before resuming activities.

Christ Lutheran Church, San Clemente

Plan for resumption of Sunday Worship outdoors at Sanctuary

Christ Lutheran Church, San Clemente, has offered a regular Sunday worship service at our Sanctuary for almost 55 years. However, services have been suspended since March 2020 because of the Covid-19 pandemic. A recent survey of our congregation shows that a significant number of members are currently willing to attend in-person outdoor worship services at our Sanctuary.

As we seek to initiate outdoor Sunday services at the Sanctuary, we remain committed to the safety and health of our staff, volunteers and congregation. Our plan for resumption of services takes into account all of the health and safety guidelines and mandates from CDC, State Government, Cal/OSHA, Orange County Board of Health and guidance we have received from our Church Synod. The plan below has many similarities to our plan to resume worship services at North Beach just as soon as a permit is available from the City of San Clemente.

The initial plan would allow for a maximum of 32 attendees at this Sunday morning worship service. However, based on the survey results, we do not expect these numbers in the near term and would expect no more than about 20 attendees per service in the first month after resumption.

The key components of the Resumption of Worship Plan we are providing to our Congregation are as follows:

A. Online Registration

1. All attendees are required to register online before 8.00 a.m. on Saturday morning.
2. All attendees will be required to answer a series of health-related questions.
3. Attendees should specify type of party (Individual, Couple, Family, etc.) and indicate if they plan to bring their own beach chairs.
4. They are also required to provide contact information (for contact tracing – if necessary)

B. Pre-Service Setup

1. Volunteers will unload and set-up sound equipment, altar table and check-in table by 7.30 a.m. All volunteers will wear disposable gloves and other PPE as appropriate.
2. Volunteer will place signage outlining necessary precautions for all attendees in the parking lot and by the Check-in table.
3. Volunteer will mark out 6-ft intervals (using chalk) in the parking lot leading to the Check-in table to promote social distancing.
4. Volunteer will place location flags (or chalk marking) at each chair location to accommodate all registered attendees while maintaining social distancing.

5. Additional church chairs will be available for anyone (e.g. older members) unable to bring their own chairs.

C. Arrival at Service.

1. Attendees should arrive for the 8.00 a.m. service between 7.30-7.50 a.m. and park as far away as possible from the Church entrance.
2. Attendees should maintain social distance as they walk towards the Check-in table
3. The check-in process will include the following:
 - a. No-touch temperature scan for all attendees including volunteers and staff. Anyone with a temperature of 100.4 F or above will not be allowed to stay
 - b. Verifying registration and confirming responses to health screening questions
 - c. Confirmation masks are worn by everyone over the age of 2 years
 - d. Selection or confirmation of preferred seating location
4. Offerings may be left in a secure box at the Check-in table
5. Upon completion of check-in, each family or group should move promptly to their designated seating area, taking care to avoid crossing paths with other attendees.

D. During Service.

1. Masks must be worn throughout the service.
2. There will be Bible readings, prayers, a sermon and a blessing.
3. However, there will be no congregational singing and no sharing of the peace.
4. Attendees will be expected to remain at their designated location throughout the service.
5. Children are required to stay with their parents through the entire service.
6. Duration of the worship service will be shorter than usual at 30-40 minutes.

E. After the Service.

1. To minimize contact and maintain order, attendees will be dismissed row by row starting with those at the front.
2. Everyone is encouraged to leave promptly and return to their car while maintaining social distance and avoiding contact with other people.
3. Volunteers will disassemble sound equipment, altar table and check-in table and move everything to loading area.
4. All contact surfaces will be cleaned, dis-infected and sanitized prior to loading on Beach Truck.

We realize that these requirements may seem a little overwhelming. We also realize that our worship service will feel different than it has in the past and may not be what you were expecting. Please rest assured that our primary objective is to provide the best worship experience that we can while doing everything possible to protect the health and wellbeing of all attendees.