



Meeting the Needs of Your Community

Faith-based organizations meet critical needs of their communities and provide comfort in times of stress. They can also help to ensure their communities remain healthy.



Consider alternatives to traditional services:

- Find alternatives to in-person gatherings to avoid endangering members and others.
- Utilize live streams, online meeting technology, pre-recorded messages and other electronic means.
- Empower members to hold services with their household members within their own homes.
- Encourage members to serve their community in other ways.

When it is Considered Safe to Gather

Make changes to your usual activities to make your gatherings as safe as possible for your members:

- Wear a cloth face covering if in public settings. Coverings are not a substitute for social distancing and hand washing.
- Ask members and staff who are not feeling well to stay at home.
- Ask parents to keep children who are not feeling well at home.
- Encourage older members, or those who have health conditions, to avoid church duties such as greeter or usher in order to avoid close contact with multiple people.
- Consider alternate forms of in-person greeting that do not involve shaking hands or hugging.
- If your organization provides communion, find ways to provide those sacraments in ways that do not involve communal cups and plates.
- Avoid passing collection plates from person to person. Place a collection plate or basket in one location and allow members to go to it.
- Activities that involve personal contact, such as hand holding for blessings, should be avoided.
- Encourage members to engage in frequent hand washing and to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or with their elbow.
- Ensure adequate amounts of soap and/or alcohol-based hand sanitizer to serve your members while visiting your facility.
- Social distancing is recommended. If participants cannot be spaced 3-6 feet from one another at the event, the event should be cancelled.
- Outdoor events that provide adequate spacing between participants are likely low-risk for spread of the virus.

Help prevent the spread of COVID-19:

- Encourage frequent hand washing or use of alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Frequently clean surfaces in your facility, such as doorknobs, telephones, and bathroom fixtures.
- Practice social distancing and consider postponing events where participants would be within 3 to 6 feet of one another.