

Steps for Reopening Faith-Based Organizations Safely

Updated 7/1/21



1. Designate members of the congregation to stay up to date on COVID-19 information.

These people will serve as liaisons to disseminate COVID-19 information to the congregation. These liaisons are not scientific or medical experts, but can inform the congregation on local and state health department policy updates and changing CDC guidelines.

2. Keep COVID-19 out by avoiding its spread in facilities.

Continue support for the community to get vaccinated, wear masks, practice hand hygiene and physical distancing, and stay home if experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. Mandate face masks when gathering indoors. Have hand sanitizer available for church members.

3. Keep good records to facilitate contact tracing.

Keep names and phone numbers of congregation members who visit specific facilities for services. Ask members to contact the congregation's leadership if they contract COVID-19. This helps leaders contact members who may have had contact with the person who has COVID-19.

4. Prepare.

Before allowing any gatherings, have a planning committee finalize the details needed to gather in person. Map out contact tracing record-keeping stations, hand sanitizer locations, greeters to provide masks and other key details. Determine the safest way to conduct ceremonies such as communion, baptisms and britot, including limiting attendance.

5. Mandate masking in groups with unvaccinated individuals.

People still need time to get vaccinated, and there are populations, such as children younger than 12, who are not yet eligible for the COVID-19 vaccines. In smaller groups, like a prayer group, where everyone has been vaccinated, individuals may choose not to wear a mask.



Use your mobile device's camera to scan this QR code and link to the latest COVID-19 information from Johns Hopkins Medicine.



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6. Physical distancing is still important.

Members should be at least 6 feet apart, especially at times when members are shouting or singing. Consider adjustments that can aid physical distancing; for example, use smaller choirs who can stand far apart, or blow the shofar away from the congregation.

7. Keep doors and windows open to enhance airflow, which reduces the risk of spread.

8. Disinfect high-touch surfaces like bathrooms, door handles and railings at least once a day.

Do a deep clean if a member has contracted COVID-19.

9. Post signs clearly communicating COVID-19 precaution expectations.

10. Encourage volunteers in day care, transportation and other highly interactive roles to get vaccinated.

Encourage hand hygiene, physical distancing and mask-wearing as well.

11. Let COVID-19 survivors know you are there as a resource.

12. Add mental health to health ministries, and learn how to recognize and respond to COVID-related mental health issues.

Identify resources in the community, and work to destigmatize seeking help.



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