

Social Distancing Checklist

for Faith-Based Organizations

Millions of Americans embrace worship as an essential part of life. For many, gathering together for worship is at the heart of what it means to be a community of faith. As a faith-based community, you can plan and make decisions now that will protect the health of congregations and the community during a pandemic. You may be faced with making decisions to modify or cancel worship services. This decision will depend on your local pandemic situation, event duration and attendees. Use this checklist to help discern how best to practice religious beliefs while keeping staff and congregations safe. This checklist may be modified to reflect changes in guidance and/or adjusted based on mode of transmission of the particular infectious disease.

- Stay informed about the local flu/pandemic respiratory illness situation
- Work with your local health department, event planners and community partners on response efforts
- Implement your plans and pandemic response related policies as needed
- Share health department messaging with staff and congregations before and during worship services
- Encourage staff and worshippers to practice healthy behaviors (for example, staying home if they're sick, covering their coughs and sneezes, and washing their hands often)
- Provide supplies (such as soap, hand sanitizers, paper towels, tissue, mask and gloves)
- Clean and sanitize frequently touched surfaces and objects regularly, including podiums, microphones, books, tables and doorknobs
- Increase physical space approximately 6 feet and limit contact between attendees (social distancing is a proven way to prevent the spread of viruses)
- Discourage shaking hands, kissing or hugging between guests
- Follow public health recommendations related to checking persons for fever and symptoms
- Ask sick staff and worshippers to return home
- Follow public health guidance on wearing masks/face coverings
- Wear gloves for contact with money (if gloves are not available, then the use of hand sanitizer is acceptable)
- Clean and disinfect restrooms regularly

