

Supporting Information for the Guidance for Places of Worship:

- Houses of worship are **strongly encouraged to continue to offer online platforms** for participation in worship because it is not yet advisable/feasible for all congregants to come for in-person services
- To reduce confusion and wasted travel, advise congregants in advance to continue to worship via online platforms at home if
 - They have had a fever of 100.4° or higher in the past 2 days
 - They have cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell or other symptoms typical of Covid-19
 - They are 65 or more years old or have underlying health conditions including high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, severe obesity, asthma or immunocompromising conditions—ie., if they meet the criteria for “vulnerable individuals” as set forth in the *White House/CDC Guidelines for Opening Up America Again* https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Guidelines-for-Opening-Up-America-Again.pdf?mod=article_inline
 - They have young children who are unable to adhere to physical distancing guidelines
- To reduce confusion and wasted travel, advise congregants in advance that **no one** will be admitted into the building without a face covering except for children under 10 years old. Alternatively, offer face coverings at the door for those who don't have one.
- In sanctuaries where seats cannot be moved, the physical distancing of seating might be accomplished by cordoning off every other row of seating or using painters tape to mark 6' distances on benches or pews.
- Christian churches that practice Holy Communion need to create ways to do this that minimize the handling of the Elements by anyone other than the intended recipients. For example, commercially packaged sacraments could be distributed to people as they enter the sanctuary, to consume at the appropriate time during the service. Face coverings may be removed briefly only for the consumption of these Elements.
- Synagogues where congregants traditionally touch and reverence the Torah need to create ways to do so without physical contact, aside from the Torah bearer.
- Instead of passing offering plates, a receptacle for offerings could be placed by the sanctuary entrance/exit. The place of worship should also create means for congregants to give online.
- For a list of cleaning products that will eliminate the Covid-19 virus, visit <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>
- The Directive on Phase 1 will be in place until the Secretary of Health determines that epidemiological data are sufficient to proceed to Phase 2 and then Phase 3.
- **Pending approval from the Secretary of Health and the Governor, considerations for Phase 2 and 3 might include the following:**
 - **Phase 2**
 - The **continuation of online platforms will still be strongly encouraged** because vulnerable individuals may still be encouraged to stay home.
 - Religious education for children of all ages and childcare might resume.
 - “Meet and greet” times might move indoors and limited indoor refreshments might resume.
 - Physical distancing and refraining from physical contact outside of family groups should continue.
 - To protect our most vulnerable members, use of face coverings indoors should continue for all persons 10 years old or older
 - **Phase 3**
 - Elderly and at-risk individuals will no longer be discouraged from attending corporate worship

- Sanctuary seating may be normalized
- To protect our most vulnerable members, use of face coverings indoors should continue for all persons 10 years old or older