

Guidelines and Recommendations for Resuming In-Person Worship Services

Implementation May 31, 2020

The State has authorized the resumption of in-person worship services, contingent on the implementation and observation of safety practices.ⁱ This is a summary of those guidelines. These guidelines will be in effect for 21 days (through June 14) and re-evaluated after that.

The guidelines divide into three primary areas.

- 1) **Staff Training** on how COVID19 spreads and how to prevent it from spreading.
- 2) **Site-specific plan** for preparing and managing the facility.
- 3) **Worship-specific plan** for managing congregant activities.

Resumption of in-person meetings will require each church to produce and implement their own unique plan! Each church will need to adapt the safety practices to their facilities and activities.

Staff Training:

1. Each staff and volunteer must read the summary of the Center for Disease Control's "Understanding and Preventing COVID19"ⁱⁱ document and sign the acknowledgment.
2. Key points:
 - a. COVID19 is a respiratory disease: it infects the lungs and spreads mostly through the nose and mouth.
 - b. Staff are required to self-screen themselves for temperature and symptoms
 - c. Basic prevention includes
 - i. Frequent hand-washing
 - ii. Use a face covering
 - iii. Physical distancing
 - iv. Stay home if you are sick.
3. Each church will need to prepare their own Site Plan and Worship Plan (see ideas below) and have each staff and volunteer read and acknowledge the plan.

Develop a Site-Specific Plan for preparing and managing the facility

1. Attendance in CA is limited to 25% of building capacity, or 100 persons, whichever is less. NV is 50 persons.
2. Provide hand-sanitization stations and signage (w/ the four prevention practices above.)
3. Screen attendees for fever or symptoms (a forehead thermometer will be helpful.)
4. Re-arrange the seating to allow for physical distancing between family units.
5. Tape off unused areas.
6. Frequent cleaning of high-touch surfaces.
7. Block-open or hold-open all possible doors.
8. Remove or block any touch items in the lobby (brochure racks, drinking fountains, etc.)
9. No food or coffee service.

Worship-Specific Activities

1. Children must sit with their family—DA churches should not provide separate children's services.
2. Require all participants to wear a mask.
3. Eliminate all personal touch activity (hand shaking, hand-holding, hugging, etc.).

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4. Eliminate all items that are passed by hand: communion trays, offering plates, bulletins, etc.
5. No sharing of microphones, instruments, pulpit, etc.
6. Limit singing (absolutely no singing without a mask).
7. Recommend shorter services and multiple services.
8. Recommend dismissal by rows.
9. Discourage congregating in the building (ask people to socialize outside the building.)

ⁱ <https://covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-places-of-worship.pdf>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/index.html>