

HOUSES OF WORSHIP

This includes temples, churches, synagogues, mosques, monasteries and other houses of worship.

AVERAGE LEVEL OF STAFF + CONGREGANTS INTERACTION



Work requires some contact with congregants and other staff.

STAFF + CONGREGANTS PROTECTION



- Masks should be used for religious leaders, staff and congregants interacting within six feet of someone else.
- Create communications material for congregants (e.g., signs at all entrances, website, social media, letters, emails) to inform them of changes to facility practices and to explain the precautions being taken to prevent infection.



- Consider whether physical contact (e.g., shaking hands, hugging, or kissing) can be limited among members of the faith community.
- To support social distancing practices, monitor areas where congregants are likely to gather and discourage overcrowding (e.g., kitchens, narthex, parking lots).
- Require six feet of separation between individuals who are not from the same family group at services and other gatherings (e.g., funerals, weddings, vigils, religious education classes, youth events, support groups). This should include clergy, staff, choir, volunteers, and congregants at the services, as circumstances and faith traditions allow (e.g., reconfigure the congregation's seats, pews, and benches or have physical barriers between them).
- Provide physical guides, such as tape on floors or sidewalks and signage on walls to ensure that congregants remain at least six feet apart in any lines.
- Consider holding services and gatherings in a large, well-ventilated area or outdoors, as circumstances and faith traditions allow.
- Keep office functions limited to essential operations. Those in the office should wear masks if working within six feet of others. Regularly clean and sanitize phones, counters, printers, door-knobs and other high-touch surfaces.
- If food is offered at any event, consider pre-packaged options, and avoid shared utensils, buffet or family-style meals if possible.
- If the nursery or childcare will reopen, guidance from the Kent County Back to Work website should be followed and adapted to the facility's specific needs.
- If holding summer day camps, guidance from the Kent County Back to Work website should be followed and adapted to the facility's specific needs.



- Conduct a daily entry screening protocol for staff, contractors, and suppliers. The screening should include:
 - A questionnaire that covers symptoms and potential exposure to people with or suspected of having COVID-19.
 - Temperature checks, if possible (as soon as no-touch thermometers can be obtained).
 - Visit www.KentCountyBacktoWork.com to learn how you can participate in the Kent County Back to Work Health Check program.



- If multiple services are offered, consider scheduling services far enough apart to allow time for cleaning and disinfecting high-touch surfaces between services.
- Consistent with the community's faith tradition, consider temporarily limiting the sharing of frequently touched objects, such as worship aids, prayer rugs, prayer books, hymnals, religious texts and other bulletins, books, or other items passed or shared among congregants. Encourage congregants to bring their own such items, if possible. Consider photocopying or projecting prayers, songs, and texts using electronic means.
- Consider suspending the use of certain shared items used in religious rituals and traditions (e.g., baptismal fonts, holy water stations, and vessels used for ritual washing).
- If possible, consistent with the community's faith tradition, avoid use of shared cups or chalices used in celebrating sacraments and other religious traditions.
- Modify the methods used to receive financial contributions. Consider a stationary collection box or electronic method of collecting regular financial contributions instead of shared collection trays or baskets.
- If possible, restrooms should remain open if a facility is open for public visitation. If restrooms are open, they should be cleaned and disinfected often, particularly high-touch surfaces such as faucets, toilets, doorknobs, and light switches.
- Ensure there is an adequate supply of items that support healthy hygiene including soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol, paper towels, tissues, and no-touch trash cans.
- Clean and disinfect high-contact and common use areas and shared items (e.g., chairs, handrails, organs, podiums, nursery toys).
- Ensure food pantries are well stocked with cleaning and sanitizing products.



- Designate a site-specific supervisor to monitor and oversee the implementation of COVID-19 control strategies. The supervisor must remain on-site at all times during activities. An on-site worker may be designated to perform the supervisory role.
- Encourage staff to stay home and self-report to supervisor as soon as possible if they develop symptoms of COVID-19.
- Close facility immediately if a staff member or congregant shows multiple symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, atypical shortness of breath, atypical cough) and perform a deep clean, consistent with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- Send potentially exposed staff members home upon identification of a positive case of COVID-19 in the facility.
- In all cases, follow guidelines for staff exposures and symptoms.

MORE FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS RESOURCES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/businesses-employers.html>

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

<https://www.hhs.gov/>