



Responsible RestartOhio

Religious Services



During the COVID-19 pandemic, religious services have been exempted from most mandates because of First Amendment freedoms, with the exception of the Director's Order for Facial Coverings Throughout the State of Ohio which members of the congregation must still follow. However, many religious organizations stopped in-building services. Now that in-building services are resuming, here are some recommendations to help keep congregants safe.

Recommended Best Practices

- Indoor activity is inherently more dangerous than outdoor activities because of the recirculating of the air inside. The more outside air incorporated, the better.
- Suggest congregants sit with their families and have each family sitting at least six feet from other people is essential. Per the Director's Order for Facial Coverings Throughout the State of Ohio, masks must be worn by members of your congregations. This is a great addition to the social distancing to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The two used together add a lot of protection. Celebrants/officiants of religious services are exempt from wearing masks during religious services.
- Eliminate as much as possible the touching of common surfaces, such as collection baskets and other prayer materials.
- Continue to offer vulnerable members of your community alternative methods of attending a service. Those over 65 and those with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma, serious heart conditions, immune compromised conditions, severe obesity (body mass index of 40 or higher), chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis, or liver disease are at higher risk from COVID-19.