



Information in this document has been archived and has since been replaced with more recent guidance.



**MIKE DEWINE**  
GOVERNOR OF OHIO

**Ohio** | Department  
of Health



# 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 masking rules, which unvaccinated members of the congregation must follow. For current requirements and exceptions refer to the [Director's Second Amended Order for Social Distancing, Facial Coverings and Non-Congregating](#). Guidance on the order is available at the [Responsible Restart Ohio: Social Distancing, Masking, and Congregating page](#), at [coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov).**

### Recommended Best Practices

- Indoor activity is more dangerous than outdoor activity 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 sit at least 6 feet from other people, especially if unvaccinated.
- 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.

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