



FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Last Updated 6/10/2020



1. FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATION FAQs



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SAN DIEGO

Can churches begin gathering again?

- Houses of worship may resume services, but they must implement a variety of safety measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. All must complete and post the [County's Safe Reopening Plan](#) before opening.
- Given the high risk of this activity, outdoor ceremonies are encouraged and vulnerable members of the population (over 65 years old, compromised immune system or underlying condition) are strongly encouraged to participate through streaming or some other form of remote technology.
- Houses of worship will have to limit attendance to 25% of capacity, or 100 people, whichever of the two is smaller. View additional guidelines at California Department of Health Update: [California Department of Health Guidance on Places of Worship](#).
- See Public Health Order, Section 14



2. FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATION FAQs



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Are we on track to reopen completely by the 21-day mark?

- After the 21-day mark, California Department of Public Health and the San Diego County Public Health Officer will review and assess the COVID-19 impact of the Places of Worship reopenings to determine the expansion or contraction of services and activities.

3. FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATION FAQs



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What is the best practice for signing in and recording temperature for volunteers and staff?

- Consider using a non-contact digital thermometer
- People with 100° + temperature should not enter
- Have hand sanitizer available at temperature checking station
- Both parties should be wearing their facial covering when temperature check is administered
- If staff is logging information, or checking registration upon entrance, it is recommended not to share the same pen



4. FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATION FAQs



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Are Bible Study and youth groups permitted?

- Houses of worship can resume services, but they must implement a variety of safety measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. All must complete and post the [County's Safe Reopening Plan](#) before opening.
- Bible Study and youth groups may be allowed under the guidance. Virtual convenings are still recommended. Houses of worship should follow guidelines in the California Department of Health Update: [California Department of Health Guidance on Places of Worship](#).



5. FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATION FAQs



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What is the guidance on hosting 12-Step programs and AA in worship centers?

- The State guidance is that AA and 12-step meetings may operate at this time but should be done remotely when possible. If in-person meetings must be held, they should follow the same guidelines for social distancing and facial coverings. More information can be found at [COVID-19 Industry Guidance: Limited Services](#). (see pages 9-10)



Additional Considerations for Services that Require Entry to Residential, Commercial, or Public Buildings

- Workers who must enter private residences or commercial or public buildings to complete their work are strongly recommended to wear face coverings while on the premises and should be provided personal hand sanitizer, which should be replenished or restocked by the employer as needed.

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- Contact customers in advance, ideally the day before the appointment is scheduled, to confirm the appointment and ask if any member of the household or personnel on-site is exhibiting any symptoms, has been sick or is currently sick, or whether anyone on the premises has been exposed to someone who has been sick. If the customer answers in the affirmative for any of those questions, reschedule the appointment at least 10 to 14 days in the future.

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Considerations for funerals

- Consider reduced visitor capacity and stagger visitation times at funerals, wakes, etc., if possible. Follow all cleaning and disinfection measures as described in this guidance. Whenever possible, remind visitors to maintain physical distance from each other, from staff and volunteers, and from the deceased.
- For full guidance, see page 12 of the [California Department of Public Health Industry Guidance for Places of Worship and Providers of Religious Services and Cultural Ceremonies](#).



7. FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATION FAQs



When will summer camps be allowed to open and what is the guidance?

Summer Day Camps are authorized to open if:

1. Stable group sizes without mixing
2. Practice physical distancing to greatest extent possible.
3. Wear face coverings if/when within 6' of another
4. Maintain infection control protocol: personal hygiene and routine cleaning of contact areas and the like.

For additional State guidelines, visit [COVID-19 Industry Guidance: Day Camps](#)

Further guidance on overnight camps is forthcoming.



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Are face coverings required to be worn during a service? Is singing allowed? Can we have small group gathering with 6 feet social distance?

Per the [Public Health Order](#):

- Gatherings are prohibited
- Facial coverings must be worn

Per the [CDPH Guidance](#):

- Strongly consider discontinuing singing, group recitation, and other practices and performances where there is increased likelihood for transmission from contaminated exhaled droplet

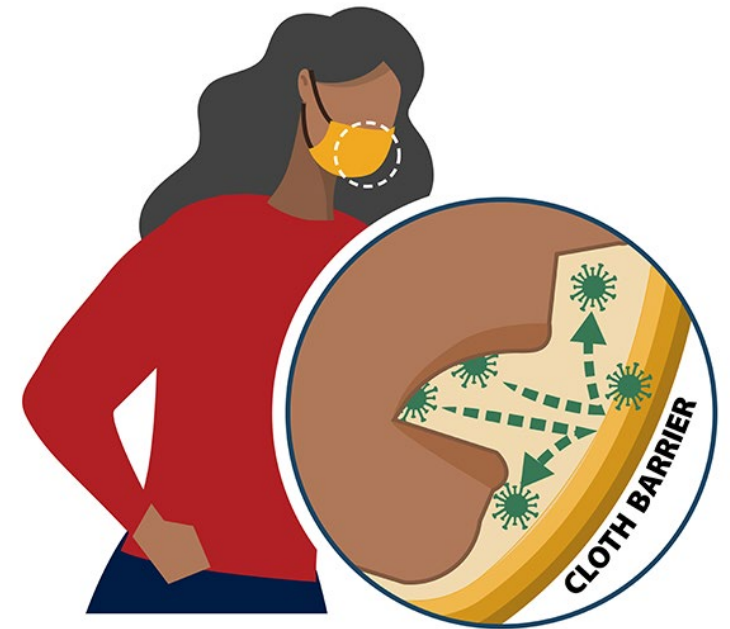
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What are the guidelines regarding facial coverings?

San Diego County Face Covering Information

- **Face coverings are required whenever you leave your home and are within 6 feet of a non-household member**
 - Face coverings can be made of cloth. Homemade coverings, bandanas, scarves and neck gaiters are all OK. Medical grade masks should be saved for healthcare workers.
 - Face covering should be used in addition to other protective measures, including frequent hand washing, avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands, staying at home, and practicing social distancing when around others outside of your household.



FACE SHIELDS BEST PRACTICES



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Best Practices for using Face Shields when interacting with individuals with hearing loss or disabilities

Face coverings should be worn by employees who are interacting with the public at businesses.



When interacting with a person who may need access to important facial cues, properly place the face shield on your face after washing or sanitizing your hands.



Remove your facial covering and continue to maintain physical distancing during your interaction.



After the interaction, place your facial covering back on your face.



Once you have put on your facial covering, remove the face shield and wash or sanitize your hands.



10. FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATION FAQs



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Are houses of worship considered a business and do we need to fill out the safe reopening plan? Do we need to post this on our doors? Is anyone from the county or state going to approve this or can we just post and implement?

- Per the Public Health Order, houses of worship are required to fill out and complete the Safe Reopening Plan, post it publicly, share it with employees, and follow state guidance.
- This form does not need to be submitted.





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- For additional questions and resources, please email:
Covid-CBO-Faith@sdcounty.ca.gov
- [Faith-Based Organizations Website](#)
- [Sign up for email updates](#)
- [View the full list of COVID-19 Faith-Based FAQs](#)

