

REOPENING FAITH COMMUNITIES DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



The purpose of this tool is to assist leaders of faith communities in making decisions during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is important to check with state and local health officials and other partners to determine the most appropriate actions. When completing the decision tree, consider that faith communities may also provide social, educational, and child care services at their facility.

Should you consider having in-person gatherings?

- ✓ Is the facility in a community no longer requiring significant mitigation?
- ✓ Will reopening be in compliance with state and local orders?
- ✓ Will you be ready to protect staff and congregants at higher risk for severe illness?

ANY NO



DO NOT OFFER IN-PERSON GATHERINGS

ALL YES



Are recommended safety actions in place?

- ✓ Promote healthy hygiene practices such as hand washing, wearing a cloth face covering
- ✓ Intensify cleaning, disinfection, and ventilation
- ✓ Ensure social distancing such as no large gatherings, increased spacing, avoid holding hands, offer additional, smaller services
- ✓ Limit sharing of items such as worship aids and collection trays
- ✓ Offer virtual services if possible
- ✓ Train all staff and congregants on safety actions

ANY NO



MEET SAFEGUARDS BEFORE OFFERING IN-PERSON GATHERINGS

ALL YES



Is ongoing monitoring in place?

- ✓ Encourage staff and congregants who are sick to stay home
- ✓ Plan for if staff or congregants get sick at facility
- ✓ Regularly communicate with local authorities, staff, and congregants
- ✓ Monitor staff absences and have flexible leave policies and practices
- ✓ Be ready to cancel in-person gatherings if there are increased cases

ANY NO



MEET SAFEGUARDS BEFORE OFFERING IN-PERSON GATHERINGS

ALL YES



OFFER IN-PERSON GATHERINGS AND MONITOR