

RELIGIOUS SERVICE GUIDANCE

Utah Leads Together

For more information, visit: coronavirus.utah.gov/utahs-health-guidance-system/

As the community moves through phased risk guidance, we encourage you to continue to implement protective measures to slow the spread of COVID-19 in our community. These considerations are not binding on any faith group and should not be constructed as an attempt to regulate religious practices. They are provided as information so that individuals can make decisions to protect themselves and others from COVID-19. Each faith group will decide for itself when to resume in-person religious services.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING

- Faith groups are able to hold in-person religious services of any size as long as a distance of at least 6 feet is maintained between household groups; the six-foot distance requirement is the only limit imposed by the Phased Guidelines on the number of people permitted to participate in an in-person religious service
- Post signage to remind individuals to maintain physical distancing when in common areas
- Consider multiple meeting schedules to accommodate smaller gatherings where physical distancing guidelines can be followed
- Implement measures to prevent individuals from congregating in lobbies or meeting areas

CLEANING & HYGIENE

- Avoid high-touch surfaces
- Disinfect high-touch surfaces frequently
- Encourage participants to engage in regular and frequent hand washing
- Wear gloves and a face covering when preparing food to be consumed by individuals from a different household
- Dedicated individuals for sanitizing high-touch surfaces

CONGREGATION & VOLUNTEER PROTECTION

- Wear a face covering when you cannot maintain a distance of 6 feet from other individuals from a different household
- Do not shake hands with, or otherwise touch, an individual who is not a member of your household
- Avoid group meals that are not part of the religious service
- Those who are sick (e.g., cough, fever, shortness of breath) should be encouraged not to participate
- Consider providing streamed services to households that prefer to participate virtually

CONSIDERATION FOR INDIVIDUALS AT HIGHER-RISK

- Limit participation in any in-person gatherings, including religious services, of any number of people outside your household group
- Individuals at higher-risk include:
 - Older adults as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [here](#)
 - People of any age with the following conditions are at increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19: chronic kidney disease, COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease), immunocompromised state (weakened immune system) from solid organ transplant, obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 30 or higher), serious heart conditions, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies, sickle cell disease, type 2 diabetes mellitus
 - Children who are medically complex, who have neurologic, genetic, metabolic conditions, or who have congenital heart disease

Refer to Appendix B: Considerations for Faith Groups Returning to In-person Religious Services, [Utah Leads Together, Phased Guidelines](#)

Refer to CDC Toolkit for Community and Faith-Based Organizations, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/toolkits/community-faith-based>

Thank you for your patience and cooperation during this COVID-19 pandemic.
Feel free to contact the Davis County Health Department with any questions at 801-525-5128.