

What to do to ensure your safety at a place of worship:

As faith communities begin to gather again, worship may look different than before COVID-19. To protect yourself and one another, be sure that everyone attending services knows these changes ahead of time.

The following guidelines are general recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and some can be modified based on specific needs. Please refer to the social distancing and gathering regulations on a continual basis.



For more information about COVID-19 visit [rwjbh.org/covid19](https://www.rwjbh.org/covid19)



Promote healthy hygiene:

- Encourage staff and congregants to **wash hands** often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Provide supplies on site to support healthy hygiene behaviors, including soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol, tissues, and no-touch trash cans.
- Post informational signs on how to stop the spread of COVID-19, including best practices and healthy behaviors.



Clarify your policy on face coverings:

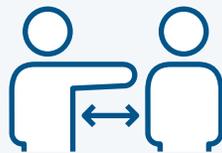
- Wearing a cloth face covering is one of the most important measures to protect yourself and others when in community settings. Per CDC recommendations, staff and congregants should be strongly encouraged to wear cloth face coverings over both the mouth and nose.

*Note: **Cloth face coverings** should not be placed on children younger than 2 years old, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is otherwise unable to remove the covering without assistance.*



Intensify cleaning, disinfection, and ventilation:

- **Clean and disinfect** frequently touched surfaces at least daily and shared objects in between uses.
- If you offer multiple services, consider scheduling time between services for cleaning and disinfecting high-touch surfaces.
- Ensure **safe and correct application** of disinfectants.
- Ensure that there is adequate ventilation. Increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible by opening windows and doors when appropriate, using fans, etc. Consider holding services outside, as circumstances allow.



Follow social distancing guidelines:

- Promote social distancing at services and other gatherings, ensuring that clergy, staff, choir, volunteers and attendees at the services follow social distancing.
- Provide physical guides, such as tape on floors and signs on walls, to ensure that staff and children remain at least six feet apart.



Minimize communal materials:

- Reduce usage of frequently touched objects, such as worship aids, prayer rugs, hymnals, religious texts, etc., and encourage attendees to bring their own items.
- Consider projecting prayers, songs, and texts electronically.
- If electronic materials are unavailable, laminate printed materials so they can be disinfected between uses.
- Modify how you receive financial contributions, such as using a stationary collection box or electronic method instead of shared collection trays or baskets.