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# Recommendations for church gatherings during COVID-19



These recommendations take into consideration the importance of religious activities and community fellowship in promoting physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being, while also recognizing that religious gatherings can place communities at higher risk to being exposed to COVID-19 without the proper protocols put into place to ensure public health safety.

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## Enclosed gatherings



Enclosed gatherings should consider meeting area size to ensure social distancing can be implemented and safety measures such as good hygiene and masking should be implemented.

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## Communion



Communion can be safely done using single-serving, pre-packaged communion.

3

## Baptisms



Baptism may be safely done with clean water; serial baptisms should be done in water heated above 23°C and treated with chlorine. Masking and hand hygiene should be used by person performing baptism.

4

## Choir & singing



Choir practices and performances should have a limited amount of participants that can safely social distance. Unmasked activities in close proximity in an enclosed area, shared food, and commonly touched items should be avoided.

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## Congregational singing



If congregational singing must be done we recommend:

- (1) Singing outdoors rather than in an enclosed space when possible,
- (2) Maintaining a minimum distance of 6 feet between congregants, and
- (3) Wearing masks while singing, and
- (4) Singing in a quiet, subdued voice.

6

## Instruments



Use of instrumental accompaniment in worship does not appear to increase the risk of spreading COVID-19 when appropriate distancing and hygiene measures can be followed.

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## General health measures



Social distancing, wearing of masks, use of hand sanitizer, and frequent hand washing should be strongly encouraged and implemented in all worship gatherings.