



Reopening Guidance for Faith-Based Organizations

Michigan Executive Order 2020-110 (Lifting state's stay at home order, June 1, 2020)

https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/MIEOG/2020/06/01/file_attachments/1463964/EO%202020-110%20Emerg%20order%20-%20MI%20Safe%20Start.pdf

- Indoor social gatherings and events among persons not part of a single household are permitted, but may not exceed 10 people.
- Outdoor social gatherings and events among persons not part of a single household are permitted, but only to the extent that: (a) The gathering or event does not exceed 100 people, and (b) People not part of the same household maintain six feet of distance from one another.

Interim Guidance for Communities of Faith (reviewed May 23, 2020)

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/faith-based.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fphp%2Ffaith-based.html

Frequently Asked Questions for Administrators and Leaders at Community- and Faith-Based Organizations (posted April 9, 2020; reviewed May 24, 2020)

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/316368B_FS_COVID19_CommunityFaithBased.pdf

For faith-based organizations interested in reopening in the safest way possible, an important item to be considered is the limit on the size of gatherings in the State of Michigan. Information on that can be found in the latest Executive Order signed by the Governor on June 1, 2020. The Executive Order also recommends that any individual leaving home wears a face covering (mask, scarf, bandana, etc.) and practice social distancing.

When considering whether to resume, postpone, or cancel in person worship and other events, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends taking the following points into consideration:

- Overall number of attendees/crowd size
- Number of people attending who are at higher risk for serious illness
- How close together attendees will be
- https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/316368B_FS_COVID19_CommunityFaithBased.pdf

The CDC continues to recommend practicing healthy hygiene including covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue or the inside of the elbow and proper hand washing. If water and soap is not available, hand sanitizer with 60% alcohol is recommended as an alternative. It's also suggested signs promoting healthy habits (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/print-resources.html?Sort=Date%3A%3Adesc>) be posted around the building.

The CDC also recommends a schedule of cleaning and disinfecting paying attention to high touch areas. Those should be cleaned daily and shared items should be cleaned between uses. If an item cannot be easily cleaned, disinfected or sanitized, use of it should be avoided if possible. For those who offer multiple services, it's suggested services should be scheduled with time in between to allow for cleaning and disinfecting of high touch surfaces.

Group size should be limited in accordance with state and local directives whenever possible. To lessen risk, social distancing should be promoted at services and other gatherings as circumstances and faith traditions allow. Holding services in a well-ventilated room or outside should be considered as faith traditions allow. Guides such as tape on the floors or signs on the wall can serve as reminders to keep the appropriate six-foot distance between people in line or create one-way traffic in hallways.

When possible, take steps to limit sharing of frequently touched items such as:

- Hymnals, prayer books, religious texts, books and bulletins
- Prayer rugs
- Other worship aids

People could be encouraged to bring their own hymnal, Bible or prayer book, single use copies of a service folder could be provided, or the order of service could be projected using electronic methods.

Consider whether physical contact (shaking hands, kissing or hugging) can be limited or eliminated among members.

Rather than passing a collection plate, box or basket consider alternative methods of receiving financial contributions including a stationary box or encouraging electronic fund transfers.

If food is served, it's recommended pre-packaged options be considered and buffets and family-style meals should be avoided if possible.

If the nursery or childcare will reopen, guidance from the Kent County Back to Work website (<https://www.accesskent.com/Health/pdf/COVID-19/Guidelines/Childcare.pdf>) should be followed and adapted to the facility's specific needs.

Faith based organizations should continue to advise people experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 to stay home. Signs could be posted on the entry doors listing the symptoms to watch for. People who have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 should also be advised to stay home and self-monitor for symptoms. Facilities should identify an area in the building where someone who begins to feel ill during the service can stay isolated until arrangements can be made to transport the person home. That area should not be used again until it has been cleaned and disinfected.