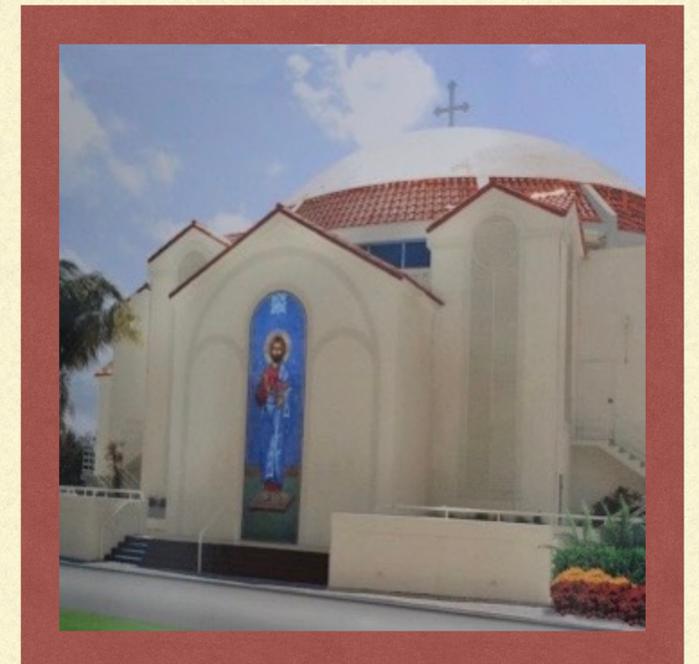
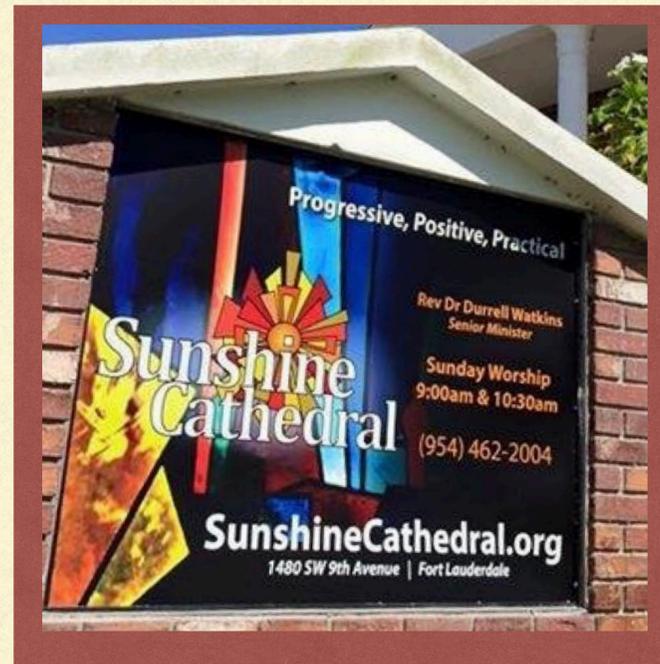
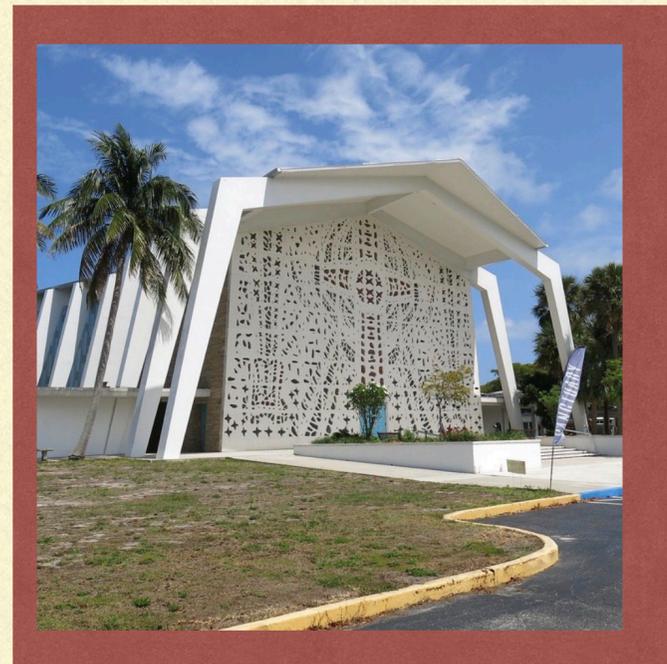


A VOLUNTARY GUIDE TO REOPENING FORT LAUDERDALE'S RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS



MAYOR'S WORKING GROUP

- The Rev. Dwayne Black, lead pastor of Sanctuary Church.
 - The Rev. Edwin Copeland, executive director of Church United
 - Dr. Marcus Davidson, senior pastor of the New Mount Olive Baptist Church.
 - Father Michael Grady, pastor of St. Anthony Catholic Church
 - The Rev. Dr. Robert Griffin, executive pastor of the Sunshine Cathedral
 - The Rev. Leslie Hague, rector of All Saints Episcopal Church
 - The Rev. Luke Harrigan, pastor of Grace Haitian Baptist Church
 - Dr. Jay Johnston, executive pastor of First Baptist Church
 - Rabbi Noah Kitty, executive director of Congregation Etz Chaim
 - Rabbi Moishe Meir Lipszyc of Chabad Lubavitch Fort Lauderdale
 - The Rev. Matt Lomenick, ministry operations pastor of Rio Vista Community Church
 - The Rev. Dr. Rosalind Osgood, president and CEO of the Mount Olive Development Corp.
 - Father Ron Perkins, senior chaplain of the Fort Lauderdale Police Department and the Fort Lauderdale Fire Department
 - The Rev. Chris Reny, senior pastor of The Church by the Sea
 - The Rev. Leslie Rutland-Tipton, senior pastor of the Church of the Holy Spirit Song
 - Rabbi Chaim Slavaticki of the Las Olas Chabad Jewish Center
 - Stephan Tchividjian, president and founder of the National Christian Foundation of South Florida
 - The Rev. Paul Walker, executive pastor of Calvary Chapel Fort Lauderdale
 - Dr. Patrick Wrisley, senior pastor of First Presbyterian Church Fort Lauderdale
 - Father Peter Zougras, pastor of St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church
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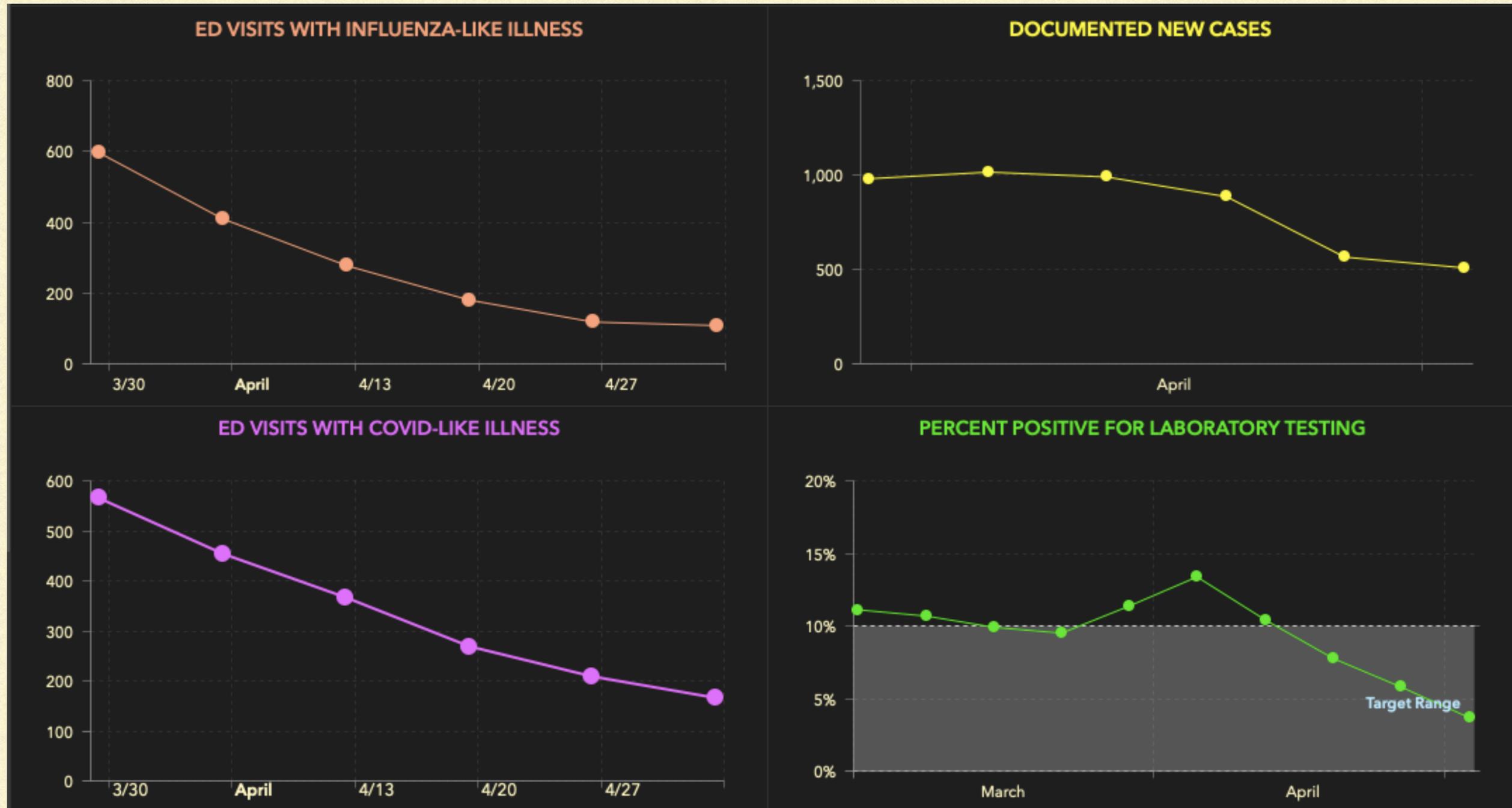
COMMUNITY GUIDELINES FOR REOPENING FROM WHITE HOUSE AND CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL

- A downward trajectory of influenza-like illnesses reported within a 14-day period.
 - A downward trajectory of COVID-like syndromic cases reported in a 14-day period.
 - Either a downward trajectory of documented cases within a 14-day period or a downward trajectory of positive tests as a percent of total tests within a 14-day period.
 - Hospitals treat all patients without crisis care.
 - Robust testing program is in place for at-risk healthcare workers, including emerging antibody testing.
-

BROWARD COUNTY ENTERS PHASE I

- There has been a downward trajectory of flu-like illness reported for five weeks, much more than the 14-day period suggested by the federal government.
 - There has been a downward trajectory of COVID-like syndromic cases reported for five weeks, much more than the 14-day period suggested by the federal government.
 - There has been a downward trajectory of positive tests as a percent of total tests for four weeks, much more than the 14-day period suggested by the federal government. The week of April 5 showed 13.4% positive results-to-total-tests compared to 3.8% the week of May 16.
 - The hospital system in Broward County is able to treat all patients without crisis care.
 - Robust testing program is in place, and the county has launched a program to provide antibody testing.
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Data from Florida Department of Health



WORKING GROUP'S MISSION

As Fort Lauderdale transitions out of its stay-at-home requirements and begins reopening businesses and amenities, one of the areas of particular concern is how churches, synagogues and other places of worship can best function. After all, in the Phase I environment, people must remain cautious and continue to take safeguards to protect their health against the COVID-19 virus.

Fort Lauderdale has a long and proud tradition as a community of faith. The goal of this report is to offer advice on how places of worship can best navigate the COVID-19 threat and still fulfill the role they play in the daily lives of so many residents. Their missions of hope, charity and compassion are essential parts of our city fabric.

This is a collection of suggested protocols from a diverse number of local faith leaders. Not all suggestions may be appropriate for each faith. These ideas should not be construed as mandatory or requirements, but they are merely offered as guidance to assist places of worship during a difficult time in which many struggle with what best practices should be.

PREPARING YOUR PLACE OF WORSHIP



- Deep clean your facility. Consider shampooing carpets, sanitizing seats and bathrooms as well as doorknobs and light switches.
- Pay attention to preschool and children's areas. Consider removing nonessential items to limit surfaces that can be a source of contamination. Clean between uses.
- Temporarily remove books, pens and cards from the seating areas.
- Consider social distancing markers in rooms or places where lines may form.
- Ensure ventilation is working properly and try to increase circulation of outdoor air.
- Ensure water systems are ready to be re-utilized after a prolonged shutdown to prevent other diseases.
- Stock up on cleaning and hygiene supplies, including hand-sanitizer.
- Post signage about the need for social distancing and limited interpersonal contact.
- Tell your membership through fliers, email and social media about the steps you're taking to protect them from COVID-19.

ENCOURAGE BEST PRACTICES

- Advise the elderly and other at-risk individuals to remain home and participate through online options. But also be aware of the spiritual needs of members who cannot attend physically but also may struggle with or lack access to technological means of attendance.
- Advise members to remain home if they are ill.
- Require all who attend a service or event to wear a face covering. Have a supply available for those who do not have one.
- Consider taking the temperature of all who enter and ask anyone with a fever to return home.
- Have hand-sanitizer available at your entrance for each person to use as they arrive.
- Find other ways for people to greet each other rather than hugs, handshakes or kisses.
- Ensure doors are propped open or held open by greeters.
- Consider arrangements that allow for contact tracing of anyone who might test positive for COVID-19, such as knowing who sat where. Accurate attendance rolls are advisable.
- Remember to offer spiritual assistance focused on COVID-19 and its consequences. Many have lost friends or family. Communities could be experiencing higher rates of depression, suicide and domestic violence. Others are hurting because of adverse economic impacts.



SCHEDULING SERVICES



- Services should remain limited, with virtual or drive-in options preferred in the early stages of reopening. Continue offering virtual services for those who don't feel comfortable attending in person or who are at high risk of contracting COVID-19. Possible outdoor options could also be considered.
- Plan seating to allow for social distancing by spacing apart attendees who do not live in the same household. Try to maintain a six-foot separation as much as practical.
- Places of worship should limit the size of the assembly to no more than 50 percent of capacity, which is in line with mandatory restrictions set for restaurants and other businesses.
- Consider expanding the number of services so each assembly is smaller. Also, consider reservations in order to spread people evenly among the services. However, remember you may need to space services further apart in order to undertake a thorough cleaning regimen after each use.

PROGRAMMING CONSIDERATIONS

- Limit or end the practice of sharing objects, such as prayer books, hymnals and worship aids.
- Modify the method of collecting financial contributions. Instead of passing a collection plate, consider using a collection box or encouraging online giving.
- Do not hand out bulletins. Project announcements on screens. Other options include emailing the bulletin and asking attendees to print it and bring it with them. At a minimum, place material on seats and ask people to take it with them when they leave.
- Consider if sacraments or communion can be administered in a way to avoid attendees having to touch the same surfaces and objects.
- Avoid kissing of ritual objects. Maintain physical space and avoid shared contact during such practices as scripture readings to the gathering. Limit as much as possible passing or multiple touches of objects.
- Avoid passing microphones.
- Maintain social distancing of attendees during entry and exit..When services have concluded, consider dismissing attendees by groups so there is social distancing between each group.
- Eliminate or revise “meet and greet” portions of programming in order to avoid close interpersonal contact.
- Clean the pulpit or lectern after every use.



CHOIRS AND ORCHESTRAS



- Consider suspending choirs and orchestras.
- As an alternative, limit these programming sections to soloists or a small group that can social distance at six feet apart.
- The risk of spreading COVID-19 is substantially greater with singing or instrument playing than with normal breathing or talking.
- Just as healthcare workers change or wash their coats after every use, robes should be dry-cleaned and stored in the bags from the cleaners until you can comfortably reintroduce the choir or orchestra to the service.
- Wipe down music stands after each use.

STAFFING

- Temperature checks of staff and volunteers are encouraged before participating in services. Those with fevers should be sent home.
- Equip staff and volunteers with masks and gloves and require them to hand-sanitize at the start of work. If doors are not propped open, greeters should hold doors open for attendees. Greeters should not shake hands with attendees.
- Require staff and volunteers who are sick to remain home. Advise any staff and volunteers who exhibit COVID-19 symptoms, who have come into contact with someone who is positive or who have traveled to a high-risk area to remain home and not return until they meet CDC criteria to discontinue isolation.
- Ensure staff and volunteers lead by example and are prepared to answer questions about the institution's health safety practices.
- Prioritize volunteers who do not come from an at-risk population, such as the elderly or those with preexisting conditions.
- Provide guidance to staff and volunteers on how to de-escalate situations as you may have some individuals upset about the new health safety protocols you put in place.



AMENITIES



- Coffee and donut stations should be eliminated, as should buffet and family-style meals.
- If you decide to offer coffee, then it should be served by a volunteer wearing personal protection. If you do decide to provide a meal as fellowship, then it should be individually wrapped and commercially prepared and tables for seating should meet social distancing standards. Sanitization of tables and chairs is critical. An outdoor venue may be better.
- Consider your ability to increase the cleaning of bathrooms between services. If you feel you cannot do more intense cleaning, then it may not be time to reopen. Be sure to post signage of the importance to wash hands after using the restroom.
- Consider keeping childcare services closed. Review local standards to ensure compliance if you do provide the service. Ask yourself if you can ensure parents that children's health safety is adequately protected. Families requiring childcare could be encouraged to delay their return.
- If you feel comfortable opening childcare and it's legally allowed, then consider extra volunteers, limits on the number of children, the development of check-in procedures and the need for additional cleaning.

OTHER PROGRAMMING

- Consider how you apply social distancing, crowd limits and health safety standards to significant events such as funerals and weddings. Should the size of the event be limited? Can it be conducted virtually?
- When conducting community outreach to individual members, consider whether it would be better to visit them virtually or talk by phone instead of doing so in their home or at the hospital. This is particularly advisable if the person is in an at-risk group.
- Consider whether religious education classes, support programs, youth events and similar gatherings should have attendance limits or be conducted virtually. Groups could be divided into smaller portions to better maintain health safety standards. If these type gatherings are allowed, then ensure surrounding doorknobs, water fountains and high-traffic areas are cleaned between uses. If these gatherings remain discontinued, consider alternate ways to continue engagement.

