

Houses of Worship

Open for:

- Virtual Services
- Drive in Services – Congregants stay in cars, no limit on size.
- Outdoor Services – Limited to one congregant/household per 200 square feet of outdoor worship area.
- Indoor Services – Occupancy limited to one congregant/household per 200 square feet of indoor worship space.

General Operating Requirements.

All organizations, establishments, and facilities that are permitted to operate shall, as a condition of their continued operation:

- require congregants/households to maintain social distancing of greater than 6 feet, whenever possible, as recommended by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) and the Maryland Department of Health (“MDH”);
- utilize markings and signage to guide congregants;
- require all congregants over the age of 2 to wear face coverings in accordance with the State Executive Order 20-04-15-01 entitled Requiring Use of Face Coverings Under Certain Circumstances and Requiring Implementation of Certain Physical Distancing Measures.
<https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Masks-and-Physical-Distancing-4.15.20.pdf>;
- provide clergy and staff with guidance and training to reflect updated CDC guidelines for Community and Faith-Based Organizations;
- use CDC and Environmental Protection Agency approved disinfectants to clean spaces daily; including use of disinfectants to wipe down surfaces high contact surfaces at least once every 2 hours while staff or customers are present (“high contact surfaces” are surfaces that will have human contact at least once an hour);
- require clergy and staff to wash their hands hourly; and
- review and implement new CDC, MDH, and Montgomery County Department of Health & Human Services guidelines as they are received.

Additional resources:

- CDC Guidance for Community and Faith-Based Organizations
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/index.html>
- Maryland Resources for Community and Faith-Based Organizations
<https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/pages/community-resources>
- Montgomery County COVID-19 Houses of Worship Tip Sheet
<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS/Resources/Files/House%20of%20Worship%20Guidance.pdf>