



This is a plan for how Southeastern California Conference churches can resume in-person youth activities for **middle school and high school ministries** during the COVID-19 pandemic.

# Youth Plan For In-Person *Activities*

SECC churches may resume in-person activities for middle school and high school youth: (1) when permitted by the state *and* county, (2) when activities can be safely resumed as determined by each individual church board, *and* (3) when the following requirements and protocols are implemented. As SECC is the legal employer of our pastors and other locally hired employees and the legal entity responsible (and potentially liable) for what occurs at our churches, conference administration and the youth department will consult with our churches as we progress to in-person youth activities in the coming weeks and months. Individual churches may seek a variance from this plan, but a proposal needs to be submitted to conference officers.

## GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- Follow **state and county health orders**.
- Receive approval to resume in-person youth activities from **local church board**.
- Implement **proper safety protocols**.
- Prepare a **communication plan** to keep leaders, parents, youth, and guests informed of new procedures and requirements.

## ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES

- **Begin slowly.** Our recommendation is to first gather outside for a short period.
- Allow parents and youth of **all tolerance levels** to be comfortable, including those who abstain.
- Emphasize a commitment to safety through **open communication** with parents and youth.

*For further information on application, please see SECC's "Checklist for In-Person Worship Services" document that has been provided to our pastors*

## Minimum operational requirements

### Hygiene requirement

- Provide **hand sanitizer** for all attendants coming to an indoor or outdoor event.
- Prepare a specific **disinfection protocol** for facilities, if meeting inside.
- **Close food service** areas and temporarily disconnect water fountains.

### Screening requirement

- **Ask all participants** whether they have had COVID-19 symptoms within the last 14 days (at a minimum, fever, cough, sore throat, chills, muscle pain, headache, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, loss of taste or smell).
- Those who are screened as positive for recent symptoms must be prevented from participating.

### Face coverings requirement

- Face coverings are required for all participants.
- Have extra cloth masks on hand for those who come to activity without facial coverings.

### Distancing requirement

- Maintain **required distancing**—initially six feet—between households.
- **Refrain from physical contacts**, such as shaking hands.
- Offer alternate **digital services** for those who choose not to attend.

Gathering limit is the **lesser of** (1) numerical restriction set by state or county or (2) maximum number of people that can be accommodated in the space while every person or household maintains the required physical distancing.

# What About?

## Gathering Inside?

Outside is much safer. If you meet inside, follow all protocols and meet < 1 hr.

## Singing?

Please plan your activities to limit singing. Instead, offer times for reflection and prayer.

## Food?

We recommend beginning without food. If you do, it must be pre-packaged and not shared.

## Carpooling?

While families get to decide, carpooling between different households should be discouraged.

## Youth & Rules?

We suggest going over these guidelines together with your youth and strictly enforcing them from the start.



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## REFERENCES

### Case summaries and other studies

- Airborne transmission of COVID-19: epidemiologic evidence from two outbreak investigations, [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/340418430\\_Airborne\\_transmission\\_of\\_COVID-19\\_epidemiologic\\_evidence\\_from\\_two\\_outbreak\\_investigations](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/340418430_Airborne_transmission_of_COVID-19_epidemiologic_evidence_from_two_outbreak_investigations)
- Community Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 at Two Family Gatherings — Chicago, Illinois, February–March 2020, <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6915e1.htm>
- Coronavirus Disease Outbreak in Call Center, South Korea, <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/26/8/20-1274-f2>
- COVID-19 Outbreak Associated with Air Conditioning in Restaurant, Guangzhou, China, 2020, [https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/26/7/20-0764\\_article](https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/26/7/20-0764_article)
- Face Masks Against COVID-19: An Evidence Review, <https://www.preprints.org/manuscript/202004.0203/v1>
- High SARS-CoV-2 Attack Rate Following Exposure at a Choir Practice — Skagit County, Washington, March 2020, <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/pdfs/mm6919e6-H.pdf>
- Investigation of three clusters [including at one church] of COVID-19 in Singapore: implications for surveillance and response measures, [https://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lancet/PIIS0140-6736\(20\)30528-6.pdf](https://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lancet/PIIS0140-6736(20)30528-6.pdf)
- The airborne lifetime of small speech droplets and their potential importance in SARS-CoV-2 transmission, <https://www.pnas.org/content/early/2020/05/12/2006874117>

### General articles

- Amid the Coronavirus Crisis, a Regimen for Reentry, *The New Yorker*, <https://www.newyorker.com/science/medical-dispatch/amid-the-coronavirus-crisis-a-regimen-for-reentry>
- Singing, the Church, and COVID-19: A Caution for Moving Forward in Our Current Pandemic, <https://www.drheathnelson.com/singingandcovid19>
- The Risks - Know Them - Avoid Them, <https://www.erinbromage.com/post/the-risks-know-them-avoid-them>

### State and county orders and guidance

- State of California: <https://covid19.ca.gov/>
- Imperial County: <http://www.icphd.org/health-information-and-resources/healthy-facts/covid-19/>
- Orange County: <https://occovid19.ochealthinfo.com/>
- Riverside County: <https://www.rivcoph.org/coronavirus>
- San Bernardino County: <http://sbccovid19.com/>
- San Diego County: <https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/coronavirus.html>

**For resources for online youth ministry during COVID, visit [SECCYouth.com/covidresources](https://SECCYouth.com/covidresources)**

**Churches must notify Administration immediately if any person who attended an activity is later determined to be COVID confirmed or COVID probable. For this reason, churches should document who attends each activity.**