

COVID-19 Checklist for Places of Worship

Faith community leaders/organizers are responsible for preventing the risk of COVID-19 infection among all people who participate in services or events. Please use this checklist to guide how your religious services and ceremonies can take place safely for all people. Note that this guidance applies regardless of where the religious services and ceremonies are held (e.g. church, house, other buildings).

Screening

Considerations	Guidance
Ensure that people are not entering the Place of Worship when they are sick	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Let the people attending the service know that they are not allowed to enter the building if they have <u>ANY</u> symptoms of COVID-19 or if they have been told to stay home by Public Health. <input type="checkbox"/> Visitors must have completed a COVID-19 screening tool before entering a church building or building used to hold a service. <input type="checkbox"/> All people including children must be screened before they attend a service. <input type="checkbox"/> Set up a screening station away from the entrance to avoid crowding. <input type="checkbox"/> Put up signs near entrances telling people not to enter the building if they have <u>ANY</u> symptoms of COVID-19 or if they have been told to stay home by Public Health.

Gathering Size Limits and Physical Distancing

Considerations	Guidance
Follow gathering size limits for religious services and ceremonies in a Place of Worship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Lower the number of people who are meeting together for religious services or ceremonies. <input type="checkbox"/> Indoors: 30 per cent capacity or less, of any particular room in a building or structure. <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoors: 100 people or less. <input type="checkbox"/> You must maintain at least 2 metres/6 feet physical distancing between people not from the same household. <input type="checkbox"/> Indoor and outdoor events and gatherings cannot be combined to increase the total capacity limits.

<p>How will you make sure you have the appropriate number of people in your building/room at any given time?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Calculate the maximum number of people that can be in your building or outdoor space at any one time in order to keep everyone 2 metres/6 feet apart. Take into account any furniture in the space. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Guideline for space requirement is 1 person for every 4 square metres (43 square feet) of space
<p>How will you make sure that people maintain 2 metres (6 feet) distance from each other at all times?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Manage how people can travel through your building by using arrows on the floor, signs, and/or blocking areas off. <input type="checkbox"/> Mark spaces on the floor where people waiting in line can stand with 2 metres/6 feet between each person. <input type="checkbox"/> Make sure the space between chairs or benches is at least 2 metres/6 feet apart; remove seating or rope it off if necessary. <input type="checkbox"/> Don't allow activities that force close contact between people (e.g. shaking hands). <input type="checkbox"/> Plan how to manage entry and exit within your building to create a 2 metre/6 feet distance between people. <input type="checkbox"/> Use signs throughout the building to remind people about physical distancing guidelines

Face Coverings/Masks

Considerations	Guidance
<p>How will you make sure that masks are worn by all people?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Ensure that all people are wearing masks in all indoor areas. <input type="checkbox"/> Some people don't need to wear a mask, if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • they are younger than 2 years old; • they have a medical condition that inhibits their ability to wear a face covering; • they are unable to put on or remove a face covering without help from someone else; • they are receiving accommodations according to the <i>Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005</i>, or the <i>Human Rights Code</i>. <input type="checkbox"/> Post signs both at entrances and inside your buildings to remind people about wearing a mask.

Hand Hygiene & Respiratory Etiquette

Considerations	Guidance
How will you ensure that people follow proper hand hygiene rules and respiratory etiquette (cough and sneeze manners)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Ask people to wash their hands often. <input type="checkbox"/> Ask people to sneeze or cough into their elbow, if they need to. <input type="checkbox"/> Have alcohol-based hand sanitizer (60-90% alcohol) available at all doorways. <input type="checkbox"/> Ask people not to share books or other items that they touch with their hands. Adapt or suspend any activity that increases the risk of COVID-19 through contact (e.g. touching surfaces or objects such as in communion) or droplet transmission (e.g. singing, speaking loudly) to prevent the risk of transmission.

Before and During Ceremonies

Considerations	Guidance
Directions for services and ceremonies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> A person who is speaking during a religious service can take off their mask while they are speaking, if they are at least 2 metres/6 feet away from all other people, AND are standing in an area of the religious space that is separate from the public attending the ceremony. <input type="checkbox"/> Don't allow group singing or singing by the congregation, even if masks are being worn. <input type="checkbox"/> Make a list of the names and phone numbers of everyone who attends your services to help Public Health in case someone with COVID-19 is there while they are contagious. This list should be kept for 30 days. <input type="checkbox"/> Limit gatherings that take place before or after a service (e.g. a meal) to 50 people where physical distancing allows it.

Virtual & Drive-In Services

Considerations	Guidance
Virtual services are permitted and strongly encouraged at this time to reduce the spread of COVID-19, and to ensure that everyone can participate safely	<p>Drive-in services are permitted, subject to certain conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Individuals must remain in their vehicle at all times <input type="checkbox"/> Vehicles should only include members of the same household <input type="checkbox"/> All vehicles (motorized and non-motorized) must be positioned at least 2 metres away from every other vehicle.

Enhanced Cleaning & Disinfection

Considerations	Guidance
How will you ensure that there is increased cleaning and disinfection of your building and any equipment that is being used?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Clean and disinfect all surfaces that get touched a lot (e.g. toilets, sinks, door handles, light switches) twice a day or more, and also when you can see they are dirty. <input type="checkbox"/> Make sure washrooms are always stocked with liquid soap and paper towels. <input type="checkbox"/> Use a disinfectant with a drug identification number (DIN).

Safety Plan

Considerations	Guidance
Recommend preparing a safety plan and having it available upon request	<p>The person responsible for the business, place, facility or establishment shall ensure that a safety plan has been created and posted in a location where individuals working at that location can access it. The safety plan must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Describe measures/procedures that have been or will be implemented in the organization to reduce the transmission risk of COVID-19. <input type="checkbox"/> Include measures for screening, physical distancing, masks, cleaning and disinfecting of surfaces and objects, and the wearing of personal protective equipment (including eye protection).