



# Responsible RestartOhio

## Religious Services



**During the COVID-19 pandemic, religious services have been exempted from any mandates because of First Amendment freedoms. However, many religious organizations stopped in-building services. Now that in-building services are resuming, here are some recommendations to help keep congregants safe.**

### Recommended Best Practices

- Indoor activity is inherently more dangerous than outdoor activities because of the recirculating of the air inside. The more outside air incorporated, the better.
- Suggest congregants sit with their families and have each family sitting at least six feet from other people is essential. Masks worn by members of your congregations is a great addition to the social distancing to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The two used together add a lot of protection.
- Eliminate as much as possible the touching of common surfaces, such as collection baskets and other prayer materials.
- Continue to offer vulnerable members of your community alternative methods of attending a service. Those over 65 and those with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma, serious heart conditions, immune compromised conditions, severe obesity (body mass index of 40 or higher), chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis, or liver disease are at higher risk from COVID-19.