

Safety Guidelines for Faith-Based Communities

Tips to help prevent the spread of COVID-19



Consider hosting **virtual sessions** when possible to limit physical interaction and to reduce the risk of COVID-19.



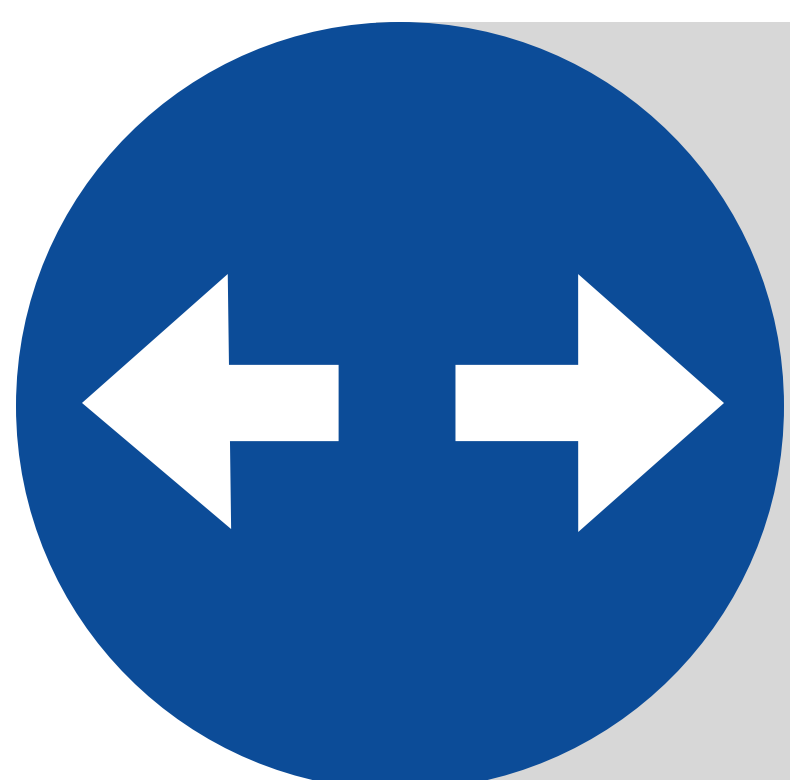
Remind staff and congregants to **wash hands frequently** for at least 20 seconds each time. If soap and water is unavailable, use **hand sanitizer** with at least 60% alcohol.



Require staff and congregants to **wear a mask**. Masks should not be worn by children younger than 2 years, anyone who has trouble breathing and anyone who is unable to remove the mask without assistance.



Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces at least daily and shared objects in between uses. Consider scheduling services far enough apart to allow time for cleaning and disinfecting high-touch surfaces between services.



Provide **physical guides**, such as tape on floors or walkways and signs on walls, to ensure that staff and children remain at least **6 feet apart** in lines and at other times (e.g. guides for creating “one-way routes” in hallways).



Limit the sharing of objects/items passed or shared among congregants. Encourage congregants to bring their own items (books, prayer rugs, etc.) if possible. Photocopy or electronically project prayers, songs, and texts.



Consider other options for **limiting physical contact** such as bumping elbows instead of shaking hands.



Play **recorded** songs/prayers instead of allowing singing or chanting during religious ceremonies.



Inform staff or congregants who are **sick** or who have had **close contact with a person with COVID-19** to **stay home**. Consider posting signs at entrances with this information.



Encourage all who are eligible, to get **vaccinated!** Make an appointment at <https://covidvaccine.nj.gov>.

