



## **Guidance from the Health Officer on Live-streamed Religious Services**

The Mendocino County Health Officer has received a number of questions regarding the performance of religious services via virtual meetings. Earlier Health Officer guidance has encouraged religious services to be performed remotely by webinar, teleconference, social media, and telephone. Many organizations have expressed interest in this option and have asked questions to clarify the extent of what is permitted.

At this time, the Health Officer wishes to clarify that the Mendocino County Health Officer's order does not prohibit a Church from holding services in which not more than four individuals come together to live-stream or otherwise record the service for viewing and participation by others. Additionally, those individuals at the live event must practice Social Distancing, including include maintaining at least six feet social distancing from other individuals (physical distancing not required for members of the same household), frequently washing hands with soap and water for at least twenty seconds as frequently as possible or using hand sanitizer that is recognized by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as effective in combating COVID-19, covering coughs or sneezes (into the sleeve or elbow, not hands), regularly cleaning high-touch surfaces, not shaking hands, and those who are not on camera, to wear facial coverings as much as possible. Also, singing and the use of wind instruments, harmonicas, or other instruments that could spread COVID-19 through projected droplets, are not permitted when recording the service outside of one's home because such activity can result in an increased spread of COVID19.

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