



Places of Worship – Summary (Revised July 2, 2020)

Places of Worship are open statewide and locally for in-person religious services and cultural ceremonies. “Places of Worship” includes venues such as churches, mosques, temples and synagogues, which traditionally engaged in the practice of religious services and cultural ceremonies prior to the initial Health Officer Orders issued on March 17, 2020. Although in-person services are permitted, the County Health Officer strongly encourages the electronic broadcast of, and remote participation in, religious services to the extent feasible, so as to limit the spread of COVID-19. **Additionally per State Guidance, issued July 1, 2020, and applicable statewide, the Place of Worship must discontinuing singing and chanting activities.** Additionally, per the Health Officer’s Facial Covering Order and the Statewide Order and Guidance, facial coverings are required at all times while inside any facility (including a Place of Worship) or any enclosed open space, and outdoors when unable to maintain a six-foot distance from other persons. The Health Officer also strongly recommends Places of Worship discontinue group recitation and other practices and performances where there is increased likelihood for transmission from contaminated exhaled droplets.

Additional limitations, as provided by the County and State must be followed. Places of Worship holding in-person religious services must follow the COVID-19 Industry Guidance: Places of Worship, et al. (<https://covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-places-of-worship.pdf>) issued by the State. Additionally, A Place of Worship must limit attendance to 25% of building capacity (maximum occupancy for the building as originally determined by the Fire Chief in the District where the venue is located) or a maximum of 100 attendees, whichever is lower. A Place of Worship may only hold a single religious service or cultural ceremony at any one time on its grounds which share amenities such as parking lots and restroom facilities. A Place of Worship may hold multiple religious services or cultural ceremonies in one day, if there are sufficient breaks between each scheduled service such that all participants have left the grounds, including parking lots and restroom facilities, and there has been sufficient time for and completion of thorough disinfection of the venue and all other touch surfaces, as specifically referenced in the COVID-19 Industry Guidance. Lastly, all Places of Worship are required to create and maintain a plan for compliance with State and County requirements that must be produced to the County Health Department upon request, and specifically in the event of a COVID-19 outbreak.

A Place of Worship may hold an outdoor religious service or cultural ceremony on its grounds at an increased capacity provided that the grounds can accommodate sufficient social distancing, hygiene and disinfection pursuant to State Guidance (<https://covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-places-of-worship.pdf>), and there are sufficient parking and restroom amenities to accommodate the increased capacity.