



Trempealeau County Health Department



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS OPERATION GUIDANCE

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Trempealeau Co. Health Department recommends that faith-based organizations continue to utilize other means of providing services to their members instead of in-person services at this time due to the risk of COVID-19 spread and transmission.

Alternatives to In-person Services:

1. Conduct the service through video conferencing (i.e., Skype or YouTube)
2. Record the service and upload to social media (i.e., Facebook or Instagram)
3. Conduct the service through a call-in phone line
4. Implement a phone tree prayer group
5. Drive-in services

Drive-In Services Best Practices:

1. Members within the car should be from the same household or living quarters.
2. Cars should be parked at least 6 feet apart.
3. Members should not get out of their cars to mingle with others.
4. Encourage members to wear face mask or cloth face coverings if their windows are down.

If in-person services are held, organizations should modify their operations and implement certain to slow the spread and transmission of COVID-19. Physical distancing of 6 feet between non-household individuals should be maintained at all times, which may require limiting the number of members allowed at each service.

Consider the following best practices to protect your congregation:

In Person Services Best Practices:

1. Encourage members to stay home if they have any symptoms of COVID-19
(https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html?utm_campaign=AC_CRNA)
2. Require members to wear face masks or cloth coverings
3. Provide hand sanitizer for members
4. Staff member should frequently wash their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds. ([CDC Handwashing Poster](#))
5. Childcare should be canceled. Children should remain with their parents to maintain physical distancing of 6 feet between non-household individuals.
6. Sanitize the facility and all touched services with approved sanitizers outlined by the CDC – Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility
 - i. English: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html>
 - ii. Spanish: <https://espanol.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html>
7. If multiple services are held in one day, allow time for staff members to effectively clean and sanitize the facility, including time for the sanitizer to air dry on all surfaces.

Risk of Serving the Holy Bread and Wine During Services:

NO RISK: Holy bread and wine is not served.

LOW RISK: If Holy bread and wine are served, it must be prepackaged by a staff member using proper food safety practices (e.g. hands washed, gloves worn, cloth face covering worn)

Prepackaged means bread is individually packaged in small sealed baggies and wine is packaged in individual glass/cups with a cover.

MEDIUM RISK: If the Holy bread is gave out by hand, the giver should wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, wear gloves (after hand washing), and wear a face cloth covering. Do not touch those who are receiving the Holy bread and wine. Avoid placing the Holy bread directly into an individual's mouth. Serve Holy wine in individual cups that are not covered.

HIGH RISK: Serving Holy bread to members with bare hands and serving Holy wine directly to members with a communion cup or individual cups that are not covered.

Trempealeau Co. Guidance for All Situations:

1. Stay home if you are sick
2. Avoid gathering with more than 10 people who do not live in your household
3. Observe physical distancing of 6 feet between yourself and others
4. Wear a mask or face covering in all public settings
5. Wash your hands frequently with soap and water
6. Cover coughs and sneezes with your elbow
7. Avoid touching your face

Disclaimer: This is subjected to change as new and additional changes and updates are provide by the Center for Disease Control (CDC), Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) and local government.

Additional Resources:

Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS): <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/community.htm>

Center for Disease Control (CDC): <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/faith-based.html>