

# PREPARING FAITH AND SPIRITUAL COMMUNITIES FOR REOPENING

## TIPS TO PREVENT COVID-19 SPREAD IN YOUR FACILITY

**Develop a plan.** Consider the following: How will you share information? How will you provide services to those that are at risk (older adults, immunocompromised individuals)? When would you postpone or cancel services, classes, or events? How would you communicate schedule changes?

**Sick members should stay home.** Sick individuals should not come to services, classes, or other events. Encourage participation with remote options. If you typically require attendance for certain classes, implement flexible attendance policies.

**Offer remote participation.** If the resources are available, record or live-stream services, classes, and events and communicate these options to members.

**Alter certain customs and rites.** Many communities have a time of greeting one another by shaking hands or embracing. Suggest members nod or smile instead. If your community emphasizes eating or drinking from shared dishes or cups, consider using single serve options instead. Offer hand sanitizer before these types of activities.

**Enforce physical distancing.** Clearly mark areas to have members from different households spread 6 feet apart.

**Consider alternatives to congregational singing.** Increased risk of viral spread from singing is unknown and thus it is recommended to use instruments alone, recorded music, or vocalists via technology.

**Promote everyday prevention measures.** CDC has many resources ([cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)). Include reminders in bulletins, programs, and other materials about staying home when sick, covering cough/sneezes with tissues, and washing hands. Reinforce these messages with kids during their lessons, as appropriate. Encourage the use of and consider providing cloth face coverings for those who do not have them. To obtain homemade face masks, call 2-1-1.

**Clean and disinfected properly.** Have tissues, hand sanitizer, and disinfectant wipes available. Basic information on how to clean and properly disinfect can be found here: [bit.ly/cleaningworkspaces](https://bit.ly/cleaningworkspaces).

**Reinforce food safety practices.** Many communities prepare and serve meals together. Continue to follow the safe food preparation and handling you already practice and add extra emphasis on cleaning surfaces and washing hands. Remember to maintain physical distance during meals.

**Consider outdoor services.** Outdoor services allows for greater opportunity for physical distancing and better airflow.

**Stay informed.** For more information contact the health department or visit our website at <https://www.co.wood.wi.us/Departments/Health/> or the Wisconsin Council of Churches at [wichurches.org](https://www.wichurches.org)