

PBBA | Recommendations for Worship Gatherings in Light of COVID-19

1. **Having Supplies** | Buy large supplies of hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes. Further, disposal gloves may need to be available for those counting the offering as physical currency carries far more germs than checks do.
2. **Washing Hands** | Strongly encourage congregants to wash their hands and check for disease symptoms as they arrive on campus.
3. **Discouraging Certain Attendance** | Strongly discourage people with any sickness in their household from coming to church (the pastor or deacons can make a house call later.)
4. **Adjusting Communion** | Communion is your highest-infection-risk element of the service. Avoid passing a communion plate or intinction. The safest way to take communion is in individual cups and pieces of bread, in small groups, at the front.
5. **Physical Interaction** | Other personal-touch service elements like welcome time, offering, or attendance books should also be restructured or suspended. (Consider replacing *passing* offering plates with a model whereby congregants come forward and *place* their offering in a receptacle of some kind and/or encourage online giving.)
6. **Seating** | Put more space between chairs or encourage bigger seating gaps in pews.
7. **Fellowship** | Informal interpersonal contact at church and church fellowship time does not need to be cancelled, provided a few basic precautions are taken (ex. limiting food to individually packaged snacks.)
8. **Volunteer Hygiene** | It is especially important for church workers to wash their hands frequently and maintain good personal hygiene.
9. **Protecting Kids** | Sunday School (small groups) can be continued, but kids should have their hands sanitized at the beginning and the end of Sunday school and activities should be planned which don't require too much excessive touching or many shared craft supplies.
10. **Taking a Pic** | You can help the public health authorities in a very useful way: during the service, have someone go up into the choir loft or balcony. Take a high-resolution photo of the entire congregation. This can help establish who sat close to whom, which can be helpful in tracing an outbreak.
11. **Communication** | Plan and communicate how to quickly share updates and decisions with congregants should information need to be communicated between worship gatherings.
12. **Set the Tone** | Ensure that you communicate, in both word choice and tone, in a manner that does not embrace fear or anxiety.

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[Recommendations through CDC](#)