

Next Steps Fact Sheet

CDC RECOMMENDATIONS updated 5/23/2020

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/faith-based.html>

- Wear masks and have available for those who arrive without one
- Have hand sanitizer and soap/water available for cleaning hand
- Provide signage informing those entering and inside the building of the Covid19 safe practices requirements.
- Clean all surfaces after every use. If can't sanitize, don't use. (Specific protocols available online.)
- Physical distancing minimum of 6 feet with visible guides (roping off pews/sit here signs, etc.)
- One-way routes through building
- No hymns or Bible use
- Only pre-packaged food – no buffet (implications for how communion would be served)
- If offer nursery separate guidelines apply

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST INSURANCE BOARD – <https://www.insuranceboard.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/COVID-19-Liability-FAQ-Insurance-Board.pdf> and <https://www.insuranceboard.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/COVID-19-Resuming-Church-Services.pdf>

“It is the responsibility of the church to communicate, implement, and enforce the guidelines set forth by the experts to ensure the safety of their employees, volunteers, congregants and visitors. It is equally important they follow the specific safety protocols they are adopting. With that said, there is an increased risk. The best thing a church can do is follow best practices as recommended by reputable health care guidance from the CDC, in addition to state and local health guidelines. If a church does not follow the guidelines, they risk liability implications and potential legal consequences (contact an attorney).”

Any activity where multiple people are interacting is a risk. We urge churches to forgo programs and activities where national, state and local health and safety guidelines cannot be consistently followed; this includes youth activities. We will provide updated guidelines on youth activities and specific outreach ministries moving forward as we cautiously navigate through these unprecedented times. As church leadership make decisions to conduct outreach ministries, Insurance Board encourages them to consider if it is prudent to do so. Please review and discuss these concerns and their implications.”

VERMONT ACCD – updated 9/18/20 <https://accd.vermont.gov/news/update-new-work-safe-additions-stay-home-stay-safe-order>

Religious facilities and places of worship may resume operations subject to the mandatory health and safety guidance contained in the Phased Restart Work Safe Guidance and:

- Outdoor, drive-in, and remote services remain the preferred method of operation.
- Organizations may allow 50 percent of fire safety occupancy or 1 person per 100 square feet.
- Physical distancing between household/family units should be observed.
- Facial coverings are required.

All participants must practice physical distancing. We ask faith leaders to help members of their congregations understand the dangers of COVID-19 and educate congregants of current CDC and Vermont Department of Health guidance.

VERMONT CONFERENCE, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST - updated 8/19/20 by Rev. Lynn Bujnak

In addition to Federal/State guidelines:

- 14 days of falling infection rates using a three-day trailing average
- Hospitals not overwhelmed or (at or exceeding capacity)
- Easy access to testing
- Adequate contact tracing (registering all attendees)