



COUNTY OF BUCKS

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Neshaminy Manor Center, 1282 Almshouse Road, Doylestown, PA 18901 - 215-345-3318

FIELD OFFICES

Bucks County Government Services Center, 7321 New Falls Road, Levittown, PA 19055 – 267-580-3510
Bucks County Government Services Center, 261 California Road, Suite #2, Quakertown, PA 18951 – 215-529-7000

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DAVID C. DAMSKER, M.D., M.P.H.

Bucks County Department of Health (BCDH) Interim Guidance for Communities of Faith

Below is some general overall guidance for faith-based organizations to operate religious services as safely as possible:

- Consider reducing the numbers of congregants per service and practice social distancing, with non-immediate family members located six feet apart.
- Increase the number of services to make up for lowering the numbers of attendees per service.
- Digitally record the service(s) and/or broadcast video and sound outside to encourage those congregants at higher risk to participate virtually or possibly at a drive-up setting.
- Increase ventilation within the building with as much use of outdoor air as possible.
- Use a stationary collection box or electronic methods to collect donations. Do not share books, worship aids, or hymnals.
- Reduce or eliminate congregant participation in song. Eliminate, temporarily, the use of choirs (or at least reduce the number involved and practice greatly increased social distancing.)
- Encourage the use of cloth facemasks for anyone over the age of two who is in good health.
- Disinfect all high touch areas and seating after each service.
- Avoid food offerings from common dishes.
- Have hand wash or hand sanitizing stations available before and after the services.
- Eliminate gatherings at the end of the service, and continue to keep social distancing.
- Consider signage on how to stop the spread of COVID-19.
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention-H.pdf>
- If offering child care or educational events, see CDC guidance for schools.
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-childcare.html>