



Public Health

## Kansas City Public Health Recommendations for Community- and Faith-Based Organizations

Audience	Kansas City Recommendation	Threshold for Cancellation/Closure	Additional CDC Mitigation Strategies
Community and faith-based organizations	Faith-based organizations are included in the Mayor’s Emergency Proclamation. All are <b>strongly</b> encouraged to comply with those provisions.	If possible, cancel/postpone activities to avoid bringing large groups of people together during this time.	<a href="https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/index.html">https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/index.html</a>

### **Follow all guidelines for “Community- and Faith-Based Guidance” on local, state or CDC websites (including but not limited to):**

- Know where to find local information on COVID-19 and local trends of COVID-19 cases (Missouri state hotline - 877-435-8411, [www.kcmo.gov/coronavirus](http://www.kcmo.gov/coronavirus) )
- Encourage staff and members to stay home and notify organization leaders/administrators of illness when sick
- Clean frequently touched surfaces (door handles, railings, hymnals and other books, candle holders/candle lighters, etc.) in organization meeting spaces/offices multiple times per day.
- Ensure hand hygiene supplies are readily available in building
- The City needs everyone’s support in practicing social distancing protocols. This will help citizens in our city to move faster past the peak of this unprecedented time which will hopefully move us all toward normalcy.

Plus, these additional considerations:

- Follow local guidelines for gatherings up to 10 persons
  - Consider cancelling any services/meetings that meet the current local threshold for event cancellations (visit [www.kcmo.gov/coronavirus](http://www.kcmo.gov/coronavirus) ).
  - Organization leadership should use individual discretion to decide on cancellation of all services/meetings – consider the composition of your membership (Percent of members over age 70, Percent of members with chronic health conditions, etc.).
  - Those attending services/meetings should keep 6 feet away from each other when seated or standing. Please think of the 6 ft. guidance as a bubble or zone around each person so there would be staggered seating in the pews/congregation. Signs should be posted reminding staff and attendees of the 6 ft. rule. Occupancy of the event should not exceed 20% of the total occupancy. We have “NO HANDSHAKE ZONE SIGNS/POSTER BOARDS” available for pick up at the health department.

- Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if organization members/staff become symptomatic.
  - (KCMO website - [www.kcmo.gov/coronavirus](http://www.kcmo.gov/coronavirus), Missouri state hotline - 877-435-8411, CDC - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/symptoms.html> )
- Identify safe ways to serve your members and those that are at high risk or vulnerable (outreach, assistance, etc.).
  - Rethink weekly meetings and services –
    - No services in parking lots or other open/vacant surface areas, due to social distancing rules and/or other city ordinances, including but not limited to city noise ordinances, as: (1) individuals will not remain in the vehicle and/or will have windows / doors open; (2) monetary donations would be not permitted to be collected; and (3) individuals will need to use the facilities/restrooms. In effect, there is not a public health benefit during an active emergency order to allow these types of event gatherings.
    - Explore creative use email or social media to share faith messages with members (video, podcasts, Facebook Live, text message groups, etc.)
  - Look for alternatives ways for members to make donations without attending a weekly service (PayPal, credit/debit cards, mail-in, etc.)
  - Review services (food pantries, soup kitchens, meal deliveries, “sick & shut-in” home/hospital visits) provided to members and community to assess risk to staff/volunteers and community
- Review, update, or develop emergency plans for the organization, with special consideration for individuals at increased risk of exposure.
  - Provide protective resources for staff/volunteers visiting sick members
  - Ensure hand hygiene supplies are readily available
- Encourage personal protective measures among organization/members and staff (e.g., **stay home when sick, handwashing, coughing in elbow or tissue – followed by handwashing**).

Additional Resources:

CDC Faith Based Guidance, as of March 21<sup>st</sup>

- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/index.html>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/guidance-community-faith-organizations.html>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/checklist.html>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/disinfecting-building-facility.html>

These guidelines are subject to repeal or amendment at any time based on the evolving COVID-19 situation here in Kansas City! Please check the City's website frequently for updates ([www.kcmo.gov/coronavirus](http://www.kcmo.gov/coronavirus))