PROTOCOLS FOR SAFELY REGATHERING FAITH COMMUNITIES & HOUSES OF WORSHIP

DR. J. WAYNE MANCARI  EXECUTIVE PASTOR, CATHEDRAL OF FAITH
COVID-19 PROTOCOL LEAD

JUNE 8, 2020
OUR TOP PRIORITY

THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF WORSHIPERS, THEIR FAMILIES AND OUR COMMUNITIES WHILE ADHERING TO CALIFORNIA AND SANTA CLARA COUNTY GUIDELINES

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

PROTOCOLS FOR SAFELY REGATHERING FAITH COMMUNITIES & HOUSES OF WORSHIP
CONTROLLED ENTRY

- DESIGNATED ENTRANCES
- CLOTH FACE COVERINGS FOR EVERYONE
- COVID-19 SCREENING QUESTIONS
- TEMPERATURE CHECKS
- PROP OPEN DOORS
- DESIGNATED EXITS FOR ONE-WAY MOVEMENT
PPE

- Hand sanitizers at every entrance
- Clean and disinfect high touch surfaces
- Turn off all water fountains
- Face coverings available
- Hand sanitizers at every exit
- We are a COVID-19 testing site
SAFETY ACTIONS

- At-risk individuals, those with symptoms to stay home
- Signage on best practices
- Cleaning common surfaces between services
- No-touch financial contributions
- Avoid food availability
- No distribution of materials
- Families worship together
SOCIAL DISTANCING

- MAINTAIN VIDEO STREAMING AND ONLINE PLATFORMS FOR THOSE UNABLE TO ATTEND
- DESIGNATED ENTRANCE DOORS AND EXIT DOORS TO ALLOW ONE-WAY MOVEMENT OF WORSHIPERS
- **FACILITY SPECIFIC:** PERCENTAGE OCCUPANCY PREFERRED OVER NUMERIC LIMITATIONS
- SPACE SEATING FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT LIVE IN THE SAME HOUSEHOLD TO AT LEAST SIX FEET APART
- OVERFLOW AREAS OR ADDITIONAL SERVICES TO MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING
TRAINING

• TRAIN ALL STAFF ON PROTOCOLS FOR REGATHERING.
• CONDUCT A TEST GATHERING WITH STAFF AND THEIR FAMILIES
• TRAIN ALL LEADERS AND VOLUNTEERS ON SAFETY ACTIONS
• CONDUCT A TEST GATHERING WITH DIRECTORS, LEADERS AND THEIR FAMILIES
• COMMUNICATE PROTOCOLS AND CHANGES TO CONGREGANTS IN ADVANCE OF REGATHERING
• OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
WE PROPOSE GATHERING BASED ON A PERCENTAGE OF ROOM CAPACITY TO INSURE PROPER SOCIAL DISTANCING RATHER THAN A SPECIFIC NUMBER.
SUCCESS FACTORS

FOOD DISTRIBUTION

- **Volunteers**: 150-225 per day
- **Families Served**: 45,714
- **Individuals Served**: 162,259
- **Locations**: 4 distribution centers delivered to 2,100 seniors
- **Value of Food**: $13,428,940.00
- **Cases of Coronavirus**: 0

Protocols for safely regathering faith communities & houses of worship.
FAITH COMMUNITIES ARE ESSENTIAL

PHYSICAL HEALTH
MANY ARE FOOD CHALLENGED

MENTAL HEALTH
MANY ARE FEELING HELPLESS AND HOPELESS

EMOTIONAL HEALTH
MANY ARE ANXIOUS

SOCIAL HEALTH
MANY ARE FEELING ISOLATED AND ALONE

SPIRITUAL HEALTH
MANY ARE DISCOURAGED

PROTOCOLS FOR SAFELY REGATHERING FAITH COMMUNITIES & HOUSES OF WORSHIP
OUR ASK

WE HAVE BEEN A GOOD PARTNER WITH OUR COMMUNITY AND WE ASK YOU TO PARTNER WITH US AS WE DO OUR ESSENTIAL WORK OF BRINGING PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL, MENTAL, SOCIAL AND SPIRITUAL HEALTH BY ALLOWING FACILITY USAGE BASED ON SQUARE FOOTAGE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

PROTOCOLS FOR SAFELY REGATHERING FAITH COMMUNITIES & HOUSES OF WORSHIP
QUESTIONNAIRE RELATING TO THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY PHASES OF COVID-19 AND PLANS, GUIDELINES, AND NEEDS RELATIVE TO THE SAFE OPENING OF BUSINESSES AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS

Company/Organization Name:
Industry/Sector:
Date:

1. Are you open or partially open? Partially open.
   b. Are you open under an exception such as:
      iii. Curbside Retail? No.
      iv. Food Distribution? Yes.
   c. Have employees and customers cooperated with the health safety protocols? Yes.
   d. To your knowledge, have employees or customers become infected with COVID-19? None.

2. How many of your activities can be moved outdoors? Food distribution is all done outdoors. Clients receive food while staying in their car and no contact.

3. For indoor activities:
   a. How can social distancing be maintained at points of ingress and egress, where people normally cluster?

      Designate specific entry and exit points.
      Hand sanitizers at all entrances and exits.
      Prop open doors to limit contact.
      Turn off water fountains.
      Train leaders, staff and volunteers in proper requirements to facilitate distancing.
      Send out our protocols to congregants prior to gathering.
Post signs outside and inside facilities with clear information on social distancing protocols.

b. How can employees and visitors be protected from transmission of the virus (e.g., no-touch temperature checks, hand sanitizer, masks, and face shields)?

Communicate with congregants not to attend if they are ill, or have been in contact with anyone testing positive, or are vulnerable due to health or age. 
Hand sanitizers at all entrances and exits, (we’ve actually had these for the past 10 years.)
Masks available for those who show up without protective cloth coverings, (we have thousands of them).
No distribution of materials.
Removal of all materials that would encourage multiple touch, (envelopes, pens, …)
Offerings received upon exit from services in a way that limits physical contact.

c. How will Personal Protective Equipment (such as face covering and gloves) and hand sanitizer be provided before entry?
We presently provide masks for all staff and volunteers.
We presently provide gloves for all staff and volunteers.
We will continue this process.

d. Can the times of activities be staggered to reduce the amount of people gathered at any one time?
We have multiple times for gathering as well as multiple overflow spaces should a room reach capacity for safe distancing.

e. Can customers make appointments to gain entry while inside capacity is restricted?
Does not apply.

f. How can social distancing be maintained inside your premises?

We will maintain distancing through hospitality team, (gloved and masked), who will oversee seating people in every other row, as well as maintaining proper distancing of 6 feet on each row between families/sheltering households.
Youth and Children’s ministry will not resume until public schools are back in session with approved guidelines, which we will also follow.

There are separate entrances from exits.

Congregants will be encouraged to exit the building immediately following service with one-way flow of movement.

4. What is your plan to acquire and distribute Personal Protective Equipment (like masks and gloves) and testing to your employees?
We are a COVID-19 testing site and have a sufficient supply of PPE.

5. How can you adapt to accommodate different size gatherings that may be allowed by the Public Health officer? (Smaller gatherings are likely to be allowed before very large ones.)
Multiple venues and multiple meeting times.

6. To meet the need for possible contact tracing, how would you maintain lists of employees and visitors with their contact information for contact tracing? (It is understood that lists of attendees would only be provided in the event of an infection that needed to be traced, and then only to public health personnel trained in medical confidentiality.)

Should any case of COVID-19 be discovered in a person who was in attendance at one of our services, we have clear communication and social media options to inform our congregants that they were exposed.
We would not gather personal information from congregants when they arrive.

7. In order to assist safe and productive re-opening, what are your needs relative to:
   a. Regulation? Let us open based on square footage of building space rather than arbitrary numbers of people.
   b. Licensure? Does not apply.
c. Childcare? Does not apply.

d. Housing? Does not apply.

e. Digital Inclusion? Does not apply.


---

1.

8. If you have been opened or partially opened, what challenges have you experienced?

We are partially open and have not faced any challenges, except for the discontent with congregants who want us to reopen completely.

9. If you have been opened or partially opened, how has the community's adherence and response to the COVID health safety protocols been?

During this time we have been approved to continue to provide food for those who are food insecure. Here are our statistics:

We have 150-225 volunteers serve each day we are open using PPE and social distancing.
We have served 45,714 families.
We have served 162,259 individuals.
We have 4 distribution centers.
We have delivered to over 2,000 seniors each week.
We have delivered to 425 minimum wage workers each week.
We have distributed a value of $13,428,940.00 of food.

**WE HAVE HAD ZERO CASES OF CORONAVIRUS.**
DRAFT - Protocols for Safely ReGathering for Faith Communities and Houses of Worship

Houses of worship should put in place plans to regather according to the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control as well as State and local guidance.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES: Our Top Priority is the health and safety of worshipers, their families and our communities. In all phases establish and continue communication with local and State authorities to determine current mitigation levels in our community.

Safety Actions

Intensity cleaning, disinfection, and ventilation
• Conduct deep cleaning of facilities, disinfecting high traffic areas including restrooms.
• Have Hand Sanitizers at every entrance and exit.
• Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces at least daily and shared objects between use.
• Ensure ventilation systems operate properly. Increase circulation.
• Turn off all water fountains.

Promote Healthy Hygiene practices
• Require use of cloth face covering at all gatherings in the building except children aged less than 2 years old.
• Have adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors, including hand sanitizers, tissues and no-touch trash cans.
• Post signage on good hygiene, refraining from physical contact and wearing face coverings.

Promote Social Distancing
• All religious activities will be conducted in a “contact-less” manner.
• Limit size of gatherings in accordance with the guidance and directives of State and local authorities.
• Percentage occupancy is preferred over numeric limitations, (25/50% square footage occupancy versus gatherings of 50/100/250).
• Maintain video streaming and online platforms for those unable to attend.
• Have overflow areas or additional services to maintain social distancing.
• Space seating for attendees who do not live in the same household to at least six feet apart.
• Limit seating to maintain proper social distancing.
• Prop open doors to limit physical contact with surfaces.
• Designate entrance doors and exit doors to allow one-way movement of worshipers.
• Allow use of every other stall and sink in the bathrooms.
• Clean restrooms between use. Encourage worshipers not to eat or drink one hour prior to service to limit bathroom usage.
• Supply masks for those who arrive without them.
• Conduct COVID-19 screening check and taking of temperature prior to entrance.
• Children and youth will gather in worship with their families.
• Children and youth ministries resume when school systems reopen. School guidelines for distancing will apply to these ministries.
• Ask at-risk individuals and those with symptoms of illness to stay at home.
• All public worship gatherings, including weddings and funerals will follow these same guidelines.

Limit Community Sharing of Worship Materials
• Restrict the sharing of frequently touched objects such as hymnals, bulletins, envelopes, pens, etc.
• Have a stationary collection box rather than shared collection trays or baskets.
• Avoid food offerings with common dishes.
• Withhold coffee stations, donuts, or group meals until safe to do so.
• If multiple services are conducted, cleaning of common surfaces should take place between services.
• Religious practices that do not include social distancing should be temporarily suspended, (such as water baptism).

Train All Staff
• Train all leaders, staff and volunteers in the above safety actions.
• Training will be available virtually, and then in-person maintaining proper social distancing.
• Staff, greeters, and volunteers should be able to answer questions on procedures and policies.

Closing
• In the event a person diagnosed with COVID-19 is determined to have been in the building it is strongly suggested to close that building temporarily until the following occurs:
  • Properly clean and disinfect the area and the building where the individual was present.
  • Notify local health officials if a diagnosed person has been in the facility.

Continue to review all relevant State and local guidelines regarding gatherings, social distancing, and places of worship. Relevant guidelines will be sent to worshipers prior to gathering.