

Small Outdoor Ceremonies and Religious Gatherings Requirements

The Santa Clara County Public Health order was updated on June 5, 2020 allowing small outdoor ceremonies and religious gatherings. To make a reservation as a small ceremony or religious gathering, a group must meet the Public Health order description of a group, and meet the nine (9) Public Health Order conditions listed below. Additionally no more than 50% of reserved site's capacity, not to exceed 60 persons may be present at any one time. Staggered attendance may be permitted, at no more than 50% of sites capacity, not to exceed 60 people in attendance at any given time. If you are interested in having a gathering at a Santa Clara County Park a special event permit and standard fees are required. To make a reservation call the reservations office Monday through Friday, 8:30 am - 12:00 pm and 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm except holidays at Phone: (408) 355-2201.

- A. Basis for Addition.** Although ceremonies and religious gatherings carry a substantial risk of transmission, they are vital to people's social and spiritual well-being. The risk associated with these activities is mitigated when the activities occur outdoors, and when the total number of participants is limited. Risks associated with these activities can be further mitigated through measures that decrease exposure, ensure adequate social distancing, and limit intermixing between households.
- B. Description and Conditions.** Outdoor ceremonies and religious gatherings, including but not limited to funerals and weddings, may occur subject to the following limitations in addition to those required elsewhere in the Public Health Order:
1. Ceremonies and gatherings must occur entirely outdoors, except that participants may use restrooms, provided that the restrooms are frequently sanitized.
 2. No more than 50% of reserved site's capacity, not to exceed 60 persons may be present at any one time. Staggered attendance may be permitted, at no more than 50% of sites capacity, not to exceed 60 people in attendance at any given time.
 3. A person or business, as that term is defined in the Order, must serve as the designated host for the ceremony or gathering, and must ensure compliance with all requirements in the Order and in Appendix C-2.
 4. The host must maintain a list with the names and contact information of all participants. If a participant tests positive for COVID-19, the host shall assist the County Public Health Department in any case investigation and contact tracing associated with the gathering.
 5. Food, beverages, and other concessions may not be provided or sold for consumption at the ceremony or gathering, except as necessary for ceremonial purposes with maximization of all safety precautions and avoidance of sharing.
 6. No equipment or items may be shared amongst persons, except amongst members of the same household or living unit.
 7. No singing or shouting is allowed due to significantly increased risk of COVID-19 transmission.
 8. All participants must wear face coverings at all times, except people who are exempted from the requirement pursuant to the Health Officer's Critical Guidance on Face Coverings.
 9. Except for members of the same household or living unit, all participants must remain at least six feet from one another at all times.