

Order No. C19-07i – Appendix C-2: Allowed Additional Activities

[Revised September 14, 2020]

Section 9 relating to Religious Services begins near the bottom of this page.

(9) Religious Activities

- a. Basis for Addition. In an effort to balance core First Amendment interests with public health, the Health Officer is creating special provisions for faith-based services and ceremonies. Even with adherence to physical distancing and face covering requirements, bringing members of different households together to engage in in-person religious gatherings carries a higher risk of widespread transmission of COVID-19. Such gatherings may result in increased rates of infection, hospitalization, and death, especially among more vulnerable populations. Therefore, even though in-person religious gatherings are allowed by this provision, with safety limitations, it is strongly recommended that individuals use alternative means to practice their faith for the time being, such as the many online and broadcasting platforms available in the digital age, in place of in-person gatherings.
- b. Description and Conditions to Operate.
 1. Individual indoor prayer in houses of worship: Members of the public may enter a house of worship, subject to the following conditions:

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- i. Only one individual member of the public may enter the house of worship at a time. If the person is a parent or guardian of minor children, the person may bring their children with them but not other adults from the same household. If the person is an adult who needs assistance, the person may bring a caregiver.
 - ii. The member of the public must maintain at least six feet of physical distance from any Personnel present in the facility;
 - iii. All individuals in the facility must wear a Face Covering, subject to the limited exceptions in Health Officer Order No. C19-12c (e.g., for young children);
 - iv. Doors and windows must left open to the extent possible, or mechanical ventilation systems must be run, to increase ventilation;
 - v. The house of worship must establish protocols for frequent cleaning and disinfection of commonly used surfaces and high traffic areas such as lobbies, hallways, and chapels;
 - vi. Signage must be posted at each public entrance to inform all individuals that they must: avoid entering the house of worship if they have a cough or fever, maintain a minimum six-foot distance from one another while in the facility or location, wear a Face Covering at all times, and not shake hands or engage in any unnecessary physical contact (sample signs are available online at <https://sf.gov/outreach-toolkit-coronavirus-covid-19>); and
 - vii. The house of worship must comply with the Social Distancing Requirements set forth in Section 15.k of this Order—and create, post and implement a Social Distancing Protocol (Appendix A of this Order).
2. Outdoor Religious Gatherings: Houses of worship and operators of other facilities or groups may hold outdoor gatherings for the practice of religion, including religious services and religious ceremonies, subject to the following conditions:
- i. No more than 50 individuals may participate in the gathering and simultaneous gatherings in the same location or vicinity are prohibited;
 - ii. Participants must maintain at least six feet of distance from members of different households;
 - iii. All participants must wear a face covering, subject to the limited exceptions in Health Officer Order No. C19-12c (e.g., for young children); and
 - iv. No food or beverages may be served or sold;
 - v. One individual at a time may sing, chant, or shout, provided: (1) the person singing, chanting, or shouting is at least 12-feet from any other person; and (2) the person singing, chanting, or shouting is wearing a Face Covering at all times;

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- vi. No sharing or common use of objects or equipment is permitted unless those objects or equipment are sanitized with cleaning products effective against COVID-19 in between uses by members of different households;
- vii. The gathering must comply with all of the relevant requirements set forth in Health Officer Directive No. 2020-19b regarding outdoor gatherings; and
- viii. All participants must comply with any requirements—including permitting requirements and conditions—imposed by applicable public authorities.

(Added September 14, 2020)