

MINIMUM STANDARD HEALTH PROTOCOLS



CHECKLIST FOR CHURCH/WORSHIP ATTENDEES

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Below is adapted from the latest joint guidance provided by the Office of the Attorney General and the Office of the Governor for religious services conducted in churches, congregations, and places of worship. The same minimum standard health protocols would apply to funeral services, burials, and memorials.

The following are the minimum recommended health protocols for all individuals attending churches, congregations, and places of worship in Texas. These minimum health protocols are not a limit on the health protocols that individuals may adopt. Individuals are encouraged to adopt additional protocols consistent with their specific needs and circumstances to help protect the health and safety of all Texans.

The virus that causes COVID-19 can be spread to others by infected persons who have few or no symptoms. Even if an infected person is only mildly ill, the people they spread it to may become seriously ill or even die, especially if that person is 65 or older with pre-existing health conditions that place them at higher risk. Because of the hidden nature of this threat, everyone should rigorously follow the practices specified in these protocols, all of which facilitate a safe and measured reopening of Texas. The virus that causes COVID-19 is still circulating in our communities. We should continue to observe practices that protect everyone, including those who are most vulnerable.

Please note, public health guidance cannot anticipate every unique situation. Individuals should stay informed and take actions based on common sense and wise judgment that will protect health and support economic revitalization.

Health protocols for individuals:

- Maintain at least 6 feet separation from other individuals not within the same household. If such distancing is not feasible, other measures such as face covering, hand hygiene, cough etiquette, cleanliness, and sanitation should be rigorously practiced.
- Keep at least two empty seats (or six feet separation) between parties in any row, except as follows:
 - Two or more members of the same household can sit adjacent to one another, with two seats (or six feet separation) empty on either side.
 - Two individuals who are not members of the same household but who are attending together can sit adjacent to one another, with two seats (or six feet separation) empty on either side
- Self-screen before going into a church, congregation, or place of worship for any of the following new or worsening signs or symptoms of possible COVID-19:

<input type="checkbox"/> Cough	<input type="checkbox"/> Sore throat
<input type="checkbox"/> Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing	<input type="checkbox"/> Loss of taste or smell
<input type="checkbox"/> Chills	<input type="checkbox"/> Diarrhea
<input type="checkbox"/> Repeated shaking with chills	<input type="checkbox"/> Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
<input type="checkbox"/> Muscle pain	<input type="checkbox"/> Known close contact with a person who is lab confirmed to have COVID-19
<input type="checkbox"/> Headache	

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- Wash or disinfect hands upon entering a church, congregation, or place of worship and after any interaction with employees, volunteers, other customers, or items in the church, congregation, or place of worship.
- Consistent with the actions taken by many individuals across the state, consider wearing cloth face coverings (over the nose and mouth) when entering a church, congregation, or place of worship, or when within 6 feet of another person who is not a member of the individual's household. If available, individuals should consider wearing non-medical grade face masks.
- Individuals aged 65 or older are at a higher risk of COVID-19. To the extent possible, avoid contact within 6 feet with individuals aged 65 and older. Individuals aged 65 and older should stay at home as much as possible.**