



# NEWS RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### In Person Church Services Now Permitted

**Ventura, CA** – New guidance was issued by the State on Monday for reopening religious institutions that were closed to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The State guidelines include distancing measures, including limits on the number of people attending a service, and protocols for disinfecting and cleaning, such as additional hand sanitizer stations and rules around regularly cleaning microphones and other shared items.

The guidance includes limiting attendance to 100 people or 25 percent of the building's capacity, whichever is lower. That limit stays in effect for 21 days after the church reopens.

Churches do not need to register to reopen but they will need to post the covid compliance hotline flyer.

Below are other recommendations. The complete list of guidelines can be found at <https://covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-places-of-worship.pdf>.

- Close places of worship for visitation outside of scheduled services, meetings, etc., whenever possible.
- Discontinue large gatherings that encourage congregants/visitors to travel and break physical distances during activities, such as concerts, large holiday and life event celebrations and remembrances.
- Prop or hold doors open during peak periods when congregants/visitors are entering and exiting facilities, if possible and in accordance with security and safety protocols.
- Close or restrict common areas, such as break rooms, kitchenettes, foyers, etc. where people are likely to congregate and interact.
- Reconfigure podiums and speaker areas, office spaces, meeting rooms, conference rooms, etc., to allow for at least 6 feet between people.
- Establish directional hallways and passageways for foot traffic, if possible, and designate separate routes for entry and exit into meeting rooms, offices, etc., to help maintain physical distancing and lessen the instances of people closely passing each other.
- Close self-service item selection such as pamphlet displays and bookshelves and provide these items to congregants/visitors individually as necessary.
- Discontinue offering self-service food and beverages. Do not hold potlucks or similar family-style eating and drinking events that increase the risk of cross contamination.

Learn more about the California Resilience roadmap for state reopening at <https://covid19.ca.gov/roadmap/>.