

Returning to Public Worship Guidelines for the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee Frequently Asked Questions

(date of answer) is in parenthesis

1. **Q: Are UV disinfection or long-term disinfection/sanitization procedures acceptable?**

A: The CDC recommendations for cleaning and sanitizing that are referenced in the guideline are currently considered sufficient. Ultraviolet room disinfection, antimicrobial surface coating and sanitizing, and antimicrobial cloth products are being aggressively marketed. Regulation of these products by the EPA, FDA, and various state regulatory bodies are limited and often not subject to premarket approval or efficacy standards. Often the evidence is only available from the manufacturer. Companies make and sell UV devices with various levels of effectiveness. At this time, the effectiveness of these products against COVID “like” viruses (SARs and MERS) has only been shown in the laboratory. *(6/11/2020)*

2. **Q: Are temperature checks recommended or required for entry into a service?**

A: No. Fever is not present in most early cases of COVID and would not be present in Asymptomatic COVID. Temperature screening devices are generally inaccurate and mandatory screening has resulted in unnecessary exclusion. The screening questions in Requirements Section 6 are the most well confirmed early symptoms of COVID to use for screening. *(6/11/2020)*

3. **Q: Are COVID-19 Immunity-Based Licenses (“Immunity Passports”) Valid/Ethical and should they be accepted?**

A: No. At this point, there is not enough evidence about the effectiveness of antibody-mediated immunity to guarantee the accuracy of an “immunity passport” or “risk-free certificate.” The implementation of such documents also raises serious ethical and legal issues.

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(20\)31034-5/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(20)31034-5/fulltext)

(6/22/2020)

4. **Q: Do parishioners, visitors, or clergy need to sign an informed consent to attend, or participate in worship?**

A: A signed consent is not required. Each parish should have a means to inform clergy, congregation, and visitors of the safety practices that will be in effect, and the information from the CDC for individuals who are at higher risk for severe illness from COVID so that they can make an informed decision prior to choosing to attend/ participate in group worship. See: People Who Need to Take Extra

Precautions www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/index.html (6/16/2020)

5. **Q: What are the allowed activities and where are they allowed?**

A: The following is the current guidance:

If it's earlier than July 12 or if your county is not green:

- You may not gather for worship in your building except for 6 or fewer persons present to live-stream services.
- You may gather outside for worship with 10 or fewer people for graveside committal services, baptisms, weddings or funerals.
- You may not gather outside for Holy Eucharist or other gatherings.
- You may make home communion visits on or after July 12.
- You may conduct drive-in services.

If it's July 12 or later, your county is green and you do NOT have an approved plan:

- You may not gather for worship in your building except for 6 or fewer persons present to live-stream services.
- You may hold a service of Holy Eucharist indoors for 6 or fewer people if needed to consecrate elements for home communion visits.
- You may gather outside for worship with 10 or fewer people for graveside committal services, baptisms, weddings or funerals.
- You may not gather outside for Holy Eucharist or other gatherings.
- You may make home communion visits on or after July 12.
- You may conduct drive-in services.

If it's July 12 or later, your county is green and you have an approved plan:

- You may gather inside for worship with 10 or fewer people (for July, perhaps different capacity later)
- You may gather outside for worship with 10 or fewer people twice. Once you have gathered twice, you may increase capacity to the lesser of 1) available space, 2) health dept recommendation, 3) Way Forward task force-imposed capacity for your county.
- You may hold drive-in worship services with no capacity limit if no one gets out of a car.
- You may conduct outdoor gatherings for weddings, funerals or baptisms up to the capacity limits. You may have graveside committal services up to the outdoor capacity limits.
- You may conduct indoor gatherings for weddings, funerals or baptisms for up to 10 people during July (perhaps different capacity later).

- You may make home communion visits.
- You may hold other gatherings inside or outside provided that their size is constrained so that the risk of a CoVid-19-positive person attending that gathering in your county is 1% or less as shown on the Regathering Risk Assessment dashboard. All Way Forward Guidelines must continue to be observed. *(6/18/20)*

6. Can number of people be increased to 20 for the first two sessions of outdoor worship to better test procedures?

A: No, the first two sessions should be limited to 10, consistent with the majority of Phase One recommendations. Use the individuals in family groups to test size and spacing of layout. *(6/23/2020)*

7. Q: Can outdoor worship spaces be used more than once in a day?

A: Yes, provided the guidelines and approved plans are followed. Any railings, tables, benches, or other “touchpoints” in the space should be cleaned between uses as much as possible. <https://wedc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/COVID-19-Outdoor-Gatherings-Guidelines.pdf>
(6/23/2020)

8. Q: Can the number of people preparing live stream services be increased to 10?

A: Yes, with the following considerations:

- Attendees are pre-screened for each session with questions in approved plan.
- Strong consideration is given to limiting the members participating in the live-stream preparations. *(6/23/2020)*

9. Q: Where can I find the current COVID-19 symptom screening questions?

A: As information becomes available, the CDC will regularly continue to update the symptom list here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html> *(6/23/2020)*