

## Guidelines updated **as of March 30, 2021** for BC Synod Congregations

(updated from March 25, 2021)

COVID-19 Restrictions for Faith-Based Organizations

**All religious indoor gatherings and worship services are SUSPENDED in all regions of BC**  
**Outdoor gatherings must follow the Public Health Order variance issued March 23, 2021**

**Variance to the current PHO around outdoor gatherings**

Be Informed	Notes (i.e; supplies needed, who is responsible, further action required?)
<p><b>SUSPENDED – Effective March 30, 2021</b> <del>Updates as of March 25, 2021</del>  <del>Variance pertaining to indoor worship services on four days between March 28–May 13, 2021</del></p> <p><b>UPDATES as of March 23, 2021</b>  Variance pertaining to <b>OUTDOOR</b> worship services and <b>OUTDOOR</b> funerals– see notes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> ‘Fifty people, as well people in fifty vehicles, may be present ‘, plus up to 2 extra people to make sure rules are followed.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> People must remain in their vehicle.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Participants must pre-register for the event and collect information for contact tracing.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> There are certain people who are at higher risk that must be cautioned about attending i.e., 70+ (even if they have been immunized- see variance notice)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> All participants must complete a health check before attending and cannot attend if they do not pass the check – see self assessment tool in notes.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> A participant must wear a face covering.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 2 metre distance must be maintained unless from the same private residence.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Hand sanitizer supplies must be provided.</li> </ul>	<p>Your congregation’s COVID-19 team is responsible for creating a safe space and must be shared by the whole congregation.</p> <p><b>SUSPENDED – Effective March 30, 2021</b> <del>Variance for Indoor</del>  <b>Worship Services: March 28–May 13:</b>  <a href="https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/covid-19/covid-19-variance-one-time-indoor-worship.pdf">https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/covid-19/covid-19-variance-one-time-indoor-worship.pdf</a></p> <p><b>Variance for Outdoor Worship Services:</b>  <a href="https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/covid-19/covid-19-variance-outdoor-worship.pdf">https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/covid-19/covid-19-variance-outdoor-worship.pdf</a></p> <p><b>BCCDC:</b> <a href="http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/community-settings/faith-based-organizations">http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/community-settings/faith-based-organizations</a></p>

- A minimum of 3 metres or a physical barrier are required for the following: worship leaders/ readers/ soloist/ musicians. See Variance for mask rules.
- Choir/ singing/ chanting are NOT permitted, with a few exceptions.
- Musical group of up to 5 musicians may perform.
- No items (books, offering plate) may be shared or passed around with the exception of items placed in a sanitary manner in a single use container (e.g. communion elements)
- No social interactions before, during or after the event – disperse immediately.

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**After expiry of PHO Indoor Variance:**

- People should **not** attend church, synagogue, mosque, gurdwara and temple services.
- Religious services can continue using remote or virtual attendance options, like Zoom or Skype.
- All indoor ~~and outdoor~~ gatherings as defined in the Gatherings and Events order are suspended
- A COVID-19 Safety Plan must be in place.
- Masks are required in many indoor public settings.**

**Visits to a religious place**

People can visit your place of worship for individual activities such as guidance from spiritual leaders, contemplation or personal prayer.

- All faith-based organizations must develop a COVID-19 safety plan in accordance with the protocols set out by WorkSafeBC

**Indoor funerals, weddings and baptisms** <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/event-planning>

Outdoor funeral may follow the variance guidelines- See “Be Informed’ section above.

May proceed with a limited number of people and a COVID-19 Safety Plan in place.

- You can have a maximum of 10 people attend, including the officiant.
- Organizers or Renters must also collect the first and last names and email addresses

or phone numbers of all in attendance, and retain this information for 30 days, in case there is an exposure event, to facilitate contact tracing

- Renters must provide contact information to the owner and be retained for 30 days.

**BC Government:** [Province-wide restrictions - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/diseases/communicable/covid-19/restrictions)

**Self Assessment Tool for BC** at <https://bc.thrive.health/covid19/en>

**COVID-19 Immunization plan:** [COVID-19 Immunization Plan - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/diseases/communicable/covid-19/immunization)

<p><b>Receptions associated with indoor or outdoor funeral, wedding or baptism are <u>not allowed</u></b> at any location. That includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Inside or outside homes</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Any public or community-based venues</li> </ul> <p><b>Meal preparation</b> as part of a religious service (like at a Gurdwara) with a COVID-19 safety plan in place.</p> <p><a href="#">Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and food safety - Canada.ca</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Religious services that include meal preparation like that of a gurdwara or a temple may still continue, but people cannot gather to consume those meals.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> There must be a COVID-19 safety plan in place, which includes packaging those meals individually.</li> </ul> <p><b>Group support meetings (like AA)</b></p> <p>Group support meetings like that of Alcoholics Anonymous are not considered “events” and are considered “essential” so they may continue in faith buildings with the appropriate safety measures in place.</p>	
<p><b>Know the risk factors for the COVID-19 virus</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/phac-aspc/documents/services/publications/diseases-conditions/people-high-risk-for-severe-illness-covid-19/people-high-risk-for-severe-illness-covid-19-eng.pdf">https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/phac-aspc/documents/services/publications/diseases-conditions/people-high-risk-for-severe-illness-covid-19/people-high-risk-for-severe-illness-covid-19-eng.pdf</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Older adults (increasing risk with each decade, especially over 60 years)</li> <li>• Prevalence of pre-existing health conditions</li> <li>• Those in close contact with immune or medically compromised people</li> <li>• Be aware of the current transmission risk in your geographic region</li> </ul> <p><b>People must stay home if:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They have COVID-19 or live with someone with COVID-19.</li> <li>• They have had symptoms of COVID-19 in the last 10 days. <a href="#">Symptoms (bccdc.ca)</a></li> <li>• They have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 or directed to self-isolate.</li> <li>• They are sick, even if you have the slightest symptoms or feelings of sickness, especially if these include upper respiratory or flu-like symptoms.</li> </ul>	

<p><a href="https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/symptoms.html#s">https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/symptoms.html#s</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They have recently travelled outside of Canada. (self-isolate for 14 days and monitor for symptoms)</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Renters / User Groups</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Outside groups may use the building provided as long as they follow local health regulations regarding physical distancing, etc.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Rentals should be suspended if groups cannot or will not adhere to gathering restrictions including maintaining a record of participants by gathering date.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Confidential user groups (e.g. AA, OA, NA) are asked to keep their own records and work with provincial health officials if requested for contact tracing.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The facility will need to be cleaned and sanitized before and after all gatherings, paying specific attention to high-touch surfaces.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Unless the rental agreement specifies that the renter must clean and disinfect, then it is the congregation’s responsibility to ensure the facility is safe. They must have their own safety plan in place.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Rental groups shall provide written details to the Owner of how they will observe health guidelines.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Have renters sign waivers and keep their own contact list for 30 days.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Forms:</b>  <b>Release, Waiver of Liability</b>, and Assumption of Risk Agreement relating to COVID-19:  <a href="https://elcic.box.com/s/oe926id9pbo8aq99lyyttwk4qrg69e3h">https://elcic.box.com/s/oe926id9pbo8aq99lyyttwk4qrg69e3h</a></p> <p><b>Indemnity Clause:</b>  <a href="https://elcic.box.com/s/obli5vky0jjyxzyidojcs1esluqvvyu30">https://elcic.box.com/s/obli5vky0jjyxzyidojcs1esluqvvyu30</a></p>
<p><b>Prepare the Building</b></p>	<p><b>Notes</b></p>
<p><b>Preparations</b>          Congregations must ensure they are compliant with the most recent provincial and federal health regulations as posted on government websites and Work Safe BC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Review your insurance policy and consult with your insurer for coverage.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The church (as the Employer) must develop a COVID19 Safety Plan and be posted at the worksite and on the website. See notes.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Determine whether your usual worship space is the best place for worship at this time and what modifications are required to update the space to the appropriate standards for distancing.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Ensure PPE equipment such as masks, gloves are available to all employees/ volunteers as required.</li> </ul>	<p>In accordance with the order of the <a href="#">provincial health officer</a>, a COVID_19 safety plan <b>must be posted</b> at the worksite and website (if applicable). View <a href="#">WorkSafeBC's overall COVID-19 Safety Plan</a>.</p> <p>Further information is available at: <a href="https://www.worksafebc.com/en/about-us/covid-19-updates">https://www.worksafebc.com/en/about-us/covid-19-updates</a></p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Remove bibles, hymnals, brochures, cards, pens and other nonessentials from worship space and common areas.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Close spaces/rooms in the building where people do not need to be. Nursery areas and Sunday School areas should remain closed unless constantly supervised with excellent disinfection and physical distancing protocols in place.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Cleaning and sanitizing:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Establish a schedule that includes frequent cleaning and sanitizing of high touch surfaces, including washrooms between services and user groups. Those at higher risk (65+, etc.) of contracting the virus should <b>not</b> be involved with cleaning.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Place Health Canada approved hand sanitizer at the entrance and at various locations throughout the building including the worship space. Keep extra cleaners and sanitizers on hand. See notes.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Consider having a container for sanitized pens and a separate container for used pens.</li> </ul>	<p>Health Canada’s list of approved disinfectants and hand sanitizers for COVID-19:  <a href="https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/covid-19/hand-sanitizers.html">COVID-19: List of hand sanitizers authorized by Health Canada - Canada.ca</a></p>
<p><b>Signage and Markings</b>          Encourage all congregational members, staff, volunteers, visitors, user and rental groups to use the COVID-19  <b>Self Assessment Tool for BC</b> at <a href="https://bc.thrive.health/covid19/en">https://bc.thrive.health/covid19/en</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Post ‘Do Not Enter if you are sick’: <a href="https://www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals/clinical-resources/covid-19-care/signage-posters#hand">DoNotEnter v1.1 (bccdc.ca)</a></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Post signs for COVID-19 symptoms, handwashing, and occupancy limits of each space.              COVID-19 symptoms poster: <a href="https://www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals/clinical-resources/covid-19-care/signage-posters#hand">WorkSafeBC</a>              Handwashing poster: <a href="http://www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals/clinical-resources/covid-19-care/signage-posters#hand">http://www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals/clinical-resources/covid-19-care/signage-posters#hand</a>              Occupancy limit poster: <a href="https://www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals/clinical-resources/covid-19-care/signage-posters#hand">WorkSafeBC</a></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Post signs on how to wear a mask properly: <a href="http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Professionals-Site/Documents/COVID19_SurgicalMaskPoster.pdf">http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Professionals-Site/Documents/COVID19_SurgicalMaskPoster.pdf</a></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Post signs on physical distancing: <a href="http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Professionals-Site/Documents/COVID19_PhysicalDistancingPoster.pdf">http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Professionals-Site/Documents/COVID19_PhysicalDistancingPoster.pdf</a></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Clearly mark physical distancing outside and inside the church along with arrows marking traffic flow.</li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Place signage and markings for 2 metres physical distancing where people may need to line up or wait. (e.g. by the washrooms, near hand sanitizing locations, down the centre aisle in the worship space.)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> You are encouraged to have separate entrances and exits with clear signage for better flow of traffic.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Seating</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Arrange or mark (in the case of pews) to ensure proper physical distancing. Block rows of pews/chairs as needed to maintain 2 metre distancing in all directions. Consider using tape to indicate available properly distanced seating options. (Households may be seated together.)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Calculate the maximum capacity of your building based on current distancing regulations.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Ensure 2 metres physical distancing in all directions according to the allowable capacity.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Leave a few available seats for visitors.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> In large buildings that have multiple spaces, as long as groups do not mix, a gathering less than 50 people in one space and a gathering less than 50 people in a separate space does not contravene the mass gathering order.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Consider offering multiple worship services within the above capacity or few small outdoor gatherings.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> No further entry should be permitted once capacity has been reached.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Communicate before opening</b></p>	<p><b>Notes</b></p>
<p>Clearly communicate what they can expect and go over the changes made to the worship space, common areas and children’s ministry to decrease risk of virus transmission. Communicate by email, mailed letter, website, poster, during virtual services and/or Youtube video. (see notes for examples of how to communicate to your congregation)</p> <p>Encourage all congregational members, staff, volunteers, visitors, user and rental groups to use the COVID-19 Self Assessment Tool for BC at <a href="https://bc.thrive.health/covid19/en">https://bc.thrive.health/covid19/en</a> before</p>	<p><b>Synod COVID-19 Response Team is available to assist you:</b></p> <p>Lower Mainland (A-L): <b>Jean Jay-</b> <a href="mailto:jeangunn8@hotmail.com">jeangunn8@hotmail.com</a>  Lower Mainland (M-Z) and Vancouver Island: <b>Karen Lee-</b> <a href="mailto:kelee2018karen@gmail.com">kelee2018karen@gmail.com</a>  Northern BC: <b>Robin Dielissen-</b> <a href="mailto:dielissen.rd@gmail.com">dielissen.rd@gmail.com</a>  Southern Interior: <b>Pr. Brian Krushel-</b> <a href="mailto:flcpastor@shaw.ca">flcpastor@shaw.ca</a></p>

<p>entering the building or participating in gatherings. Pass along the message, <b>“If you have any doubts whether or not you should be attending, please stay home.”</b></p> <p>Remind those with underlying medical conditions and those over 65 years old that they are at increased risk of serious illness from the virus.</p> <p><b>People should stay home if they have symptoms:</b>  <a href="https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/symptoms.html#s">https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/symptoms.html#s</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Pre-registration is recommended</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Before entering the building or participating in gatherings announce that masks should be worn at all times.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Have masks available for guests and others arriving without one.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Children are to remain with parents/ guardians while in the church building, even if a children’s time is offered.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Physical distancing in effect at all time except with those in their own household.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Examples of how you can communicate your re-opening:</b></p> <p>Poster Sample: <a href="https://bcsynod.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Welcome-Back-Sample.pdf">https://bcsynod.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Welcome-Back-Sample.pdf</a></p> <p>Poster Template: <a href="https://bcsynod.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Welcome-Back-Template.docx">https://bcsynod.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Welcome-Back-Template.docx</a></p> <p><b>Make this your own by inserting pictures from your own church building. This will help people visualize the changes they can expect when they are attending indoor worship</b></p> <p><b>Youtube video:</b>  <a href="#">(690) Back to church guidelines 2020 - YouTube</a></p>
<p><b>Preparing for Worship</b></p>	<p><b>Notes</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> In person social gatherings before or after worship (coffee time, shared meals, etc.) should not take place.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Ensure that the number of worshippers does not exceed the calculated capacity. Perhaps have multiple services, shorter worship services or smaller outdoor gatherings.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Consider how will you continue to include those who will not/may not be able to attend in-person worship.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Train greeters and ushers so they are familiar with traffic flows and revised practices.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Worship leaders should plan and practice their movement in the worship space to ensure physical distancing throughout the service.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Introduce fresh air into the worship space by opening doors and windows.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Place a logbook or checklist at the entrance to keep a record of all people entering the building in order to facilitate contact tracing (including date, time, name and contact number or email address).</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Keep contact information for a minimum of 30 days.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Have congregants and visitors sign waivers upon entering.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Form:</b></p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> If you are using bulletins, have them pre-placed by someone wearing gloves. (As opposed to handing them out as people enter.) Place them at 2 metres intervals to help ensure adequate distancing. Use projection screen, if possible.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Release, Waiver of Liability, and Assumption of Risk Agreement</b> relating to COVID-19:  <a href="https://elcic.box.com/s/oe926id9pbo8aq99lyyttwk4qrg69e3h">https://elcic.box.com/s/oe926id9pbo8aq99lyyttwk4qrg69e3h</a></p>
<p><b>Worship</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Make announcements about the need for non-contact greetings and reminder people to refrain from shaking hands and hugging.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Worship leaders should not share microphones.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Limit people’s movement in worship to minimize the opportunities for contact.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> When sharing of the peace, people should remain where they were sitting and may bow or open their hands in a gesture of peace to those in other pews/seats around them.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Communal responses (speaking in unison) including the creed, the Lord’s Prayer, liturgical responses, etc. should be discouraged. Invite worshippers to participate silently or to use movement and gestures . (e.g. The Lord’s Prayer in Movement) <a href="#">THE LORD’S PRAYER IN MOVEMENT   Lorraine Kisly (patheos.com)</a></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Pastors and worship leaders should avoid greeting people as they exit the worship space.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Provide a place where worshippers can deposit physical offerings. Encourage worshippers to make contributions though electronic means.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Offering counters have access to gloves and enough space to maintain physical distancing.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Washrooms:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Decide whether to keep the washrooms open or closed (except for emergency use).</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> If washrooms are open, ensure proper signage is posted for limit of people in each washroom at a time, physical distancing, proper cleaning, disinfecting and proper hand washing.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Hand hygiene: <a href="#">COVID19 MOH BCCDC Handwashing Poster a1</a></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Have hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes on hand.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Singing</b>          It is recommended that congregations refrain from congregational singing as it is a higher risk activity with people who are already at higher risk of serious illness from Covid19. This applies to congregational singing as well as choirs. <a href="#">How it Spreads (bccdc.ca)</a></p>	<p>Choirs: <a href="http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/community-settings/choirs-and-bands">http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/community-settings/choirs-and-bands</a></p>



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Anyone who feels ill should remain home and stay away from others</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Maintain the two-metre distance between singers and between those who are singing and those who are enjoying the music.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Sing outdoors wherever possible; indoors, consider the size of the room and whether or not the ventilation is adequate.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Singing should be avoided in unventilated rooms. Open windows or doors to help ventilate the room.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Limit the number of people who are singing. See notes.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Consider breaking into smaller groups that sing together for shorter periods of time.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Consider having one soloist sing for the entire congregation, ensuring at least two metres between the singer and the audience.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Encourage humming along to recorded music or along with a soloist or small group of singers.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Do not share microphones, music stands, or other equipment.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Consider playing live instrumental versions for hymns and inviting worshippers to read along with the words, engage in silent prayer or meditation, or 'sing' along silently.</li> </ul>	
<p><b><u>Holy Communion</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Consider using wafers rather than fresh bread to minimize handling of the elements.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Offering bread only. Common cup and intinction are not permitted.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Have all the elements on the table/altar at the beginning of worship.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Pastors and assistants wash and sanitize their hands before blessing the elements and distributing Holy Communion.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Those serving Holy Communion must wear a mask.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Pastors and assistants should not wear gloves when distributing Holy Communion.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Worshippers are directed to servers in an organized fashion, leaving physical distance between family groups.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Communicants sanitize their hands as they proceed to the table.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Communicants should stand 2 metres away from the pastor to hear the words, "The body of Christ...". They then step forward to receive the wafer. The pastor/server should take special care to gently drop the wafer into the worshipper's hand or use tongs so as not to touch them. Should contact occur the server should pause to sanitize their hands again.</li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> If wine or grape juice is offered, it must be distributed in individual glasses in trays. The communicant stands 2 meters away from the server to hear the words, “The blood of Christ.....” Then they step forward as the server extends the tray. The communicant carefully takes a glass from the tray. Should contact with another glass occur the server shall remove this glass from the tray. (Those preparing communion should ensure that the glasses are spaced widely apart to avoid accidental contact.)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Provide a receptacle into which the communicant can place their glass.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Whether standing or kneeling during communion worshippers must maintain physical distancing.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Mark the floor/ rail to indicate the appropriate distance.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Ensure worshippers are directed back to their seats in an organized fashion, leaving physical distance between family groups.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Pastors and assistants shall wash and sanitize their hands after distribution.</li> </ul>	
<p><b><u>Holy Baptism</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Discourage the practice of worshippers touching the water in the font as they remember their baptism. Instead, invite people to pause a moment in silent prayer.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Sanitize and provide fresh water in the font for each baptism.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Have parents/family hold the child for the baptism.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Water is poured on the baptized with a shell. The baptized is anointed with oil using a cotton ball.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> A member of the baptismal party lights the baptismal candle from the paschal candle as the words of presentation are spoken.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Returning to Other In-person Ministries of the Congregation</b></p>	<p><b>Notes</b></p>
<p><b><u>Visitation</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Religious leaders may attend the home of a member of their religious community to provide religious services to the occupant.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Care home and hospital visits will follow the protocol of the health authority in your region. Familiarize yourself with the requirements before you visit.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Take only essential items into the facility and disinfect carefully before using in another setting.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> It is advisable to limit visits to one per day to minimize risk and potential spread</li> </ul>	

- Visits with church members should take place outdoors or at the church building with proper cleaning and sanitation between visits.
- Avoid physical contact and wash hands regularly. Keep hand sanitizer on hand for times when you cannot access soap and water.