

Houses of Worship FAQ

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Are there any capacity limits on houses of worship?

Yes. All houses of worship must limit capacity to **no more than 50% of the maximum occupancy for a particular area** as established by the certificate of occupancy. The capacity limit includes congregants and attendees. Limits are the same for houses of worship in cluster zones.

What are the social distancing requirements for houses of worship?

All individuals must maintain a distance of **at least 6 feet at all times**, unless the core activity requires a shorter distance (e.g., pallbearing) or they are members of the same household.

When must individuals wear face coverings?

Individuals must wear face coverings **any time they cannot maintain 6 feet of distance** from individuals outside their household. This includes faith leaders, officiants, and employees. Individuals are strongly advised to wear a face covering at all times, even if 6 feet of distance is being maintained.

Are there any restrictions on activities involving singing?

Individuals must remain **at least 12 feet apart** for any activities involving singing. If individuals cannot maintain 12 feet of distance, they must wear a face covering unless they are members of the same household.

May individuals share food and drink?

No. Houses of worship must prohibit shared food and beverages.

Additional Resources:

[NY Forward Guidelines for Religious and Funeral Services](#)

[Tips for Getting Together Safely](#)

[Reopening New York City: Frequently Asked Questions: What Religious and Funeral Services Need to Know](#)

[Coronavirus Frequently Asked Questions for Faith Leaders](#)