

## COVID-19 Restrictions for Faith-Based Organizations

### As ordered on November 19th, 2020

In effect as of midnight November 19th, 2020 until midnight December 7th, 2020

- ✗ Religious in-person gatherings and worship services (visits to a religious place as an individual or with immediate household are allowed)
  - ✓ Remote or virtual attendance options can take place instead
  - ✓ Develop a COVID-19 safety plan
  - ✓ With a limited number of people (max. 10, including officiant) and a COVID-19 safety plan in place, funerals, weddings and baptisms
  - ✗ Receptions associated with funeral, wedding or baptism receptions, at any location
  - ✓ Meal preparation as part of a religious service (like at a Gurdwara) with a COVID-19 safety plan in place
  - ✓ Group support meetings (like AA)
- Religious in-person gatherings and worship services are suspended
    - 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
    - This means people can visit religious places as an individual or with their immediate household, but they must take precautions by
      - Staying home if they are sick
      - Wearing a mask in indoor common areas
      - Physical distancing
      - Hand-washing
  - All faith-based organizations must develop a COVID-19 safety plan in accordance with the protocols set out by [WorkSafeBC](#)
  - All indoor and outdoor gatherings as defined in the [Gatherings and Events order](#) are suspended
    - However, funerals, weddings and baptisms 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
      - Because these services are considered “events” under the Gatherings and Events order, organizers 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
        - If renting or using a space that is not owned by the organizer, provide this information to the owner who must retain this information for 30 days

- Receptions associated with funeral, wedding or baptism receptions are not allowed at any location, that includes:
  - Inside or outside homes
  - Any public or community-based venues
- 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
  - There must be a COVID-19 safety plan in place, which includes packaging those meals individually
- 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

## **Links**

BCCDC: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/community-settings/faith-based-organizations>

BC Government: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support/restrictions#social-gatherings>