



COVID-19 STAY-AT-HOME ORDER UPDATES & RESPONSE

Across the country, states and counties have added different versions of “stay-safe” or “stay-at-home” orders for their citizens. These stay-at-home orders are intended to prevent the spread of COVID-19. As said many times during this pandemic, these are unprecedented measures in our country’s history. Your church and ministry must determine how to most effectively minister to those in your care during this challenging time.

Understanding Executive Orders

Your church needs to be aware of any public health and state mandates that are in place as your church determines how to minister effectively. Depending on the state or county, these directives carry different penalties for non-compliance. Below we have shortcuts to each state’s executive order for more detailed information.

As a rule, the state orders include these four things:

1. all non-essential employees work from home or stay home
2. all restaurants and bar closed
3. all gatherings need to be limited to ten or fewer
4. all events suspended indefinitely.

Should our church continue to meet?

Each state has a different approach to implementation. However, compliance is generally recommended due to the nature of the public health crisis. If your church or ministry is trying to decide if you should or should not continue to meet, here are some criteria to consider:

1. Does my state have a stay-at-home order in place?
2. Is my county particularly affected at this time by COVID-19?
3. Am I potentially placing my congregation at risk by having them attend church?
4. Are there safer alternatives to meeting in groups at this time?
5. How can I serve our congregation most effectively?

Our Recommendations

The NCLL recommends churches provide a virtual service option (Livestream, Facebook Live, etc.) through the end of April. If your church wants to allow people to attend in person, please review state guidelines to ensure you are not placing your congregants at risk. If you choose to allow some church members to attend, ensure that you keep people spread out from each other to limit exposure between individuals [You can review our recommendations for your facility here](#). Drive-in church is also an option in many states and counties. This allows your congregation to come to your church’s location without exposing others to the potential spread of the virus.



As always, remember there is no one-size-fits-all solution. If you are still trying to determine how best to navigate this complicated time for your church or ministry, please contact our office, and one of our team members will gladly assist you in answering your questions. Contact our office by calling (888) 233-6255 or emailing info@ncll.org.

Current State Orders Regarding Gatherings & Stay-at-Home:

- **Stay-at-home order:** Alabama | Alaska | Arizona | California | Colorado | Connecticut | Delaware | District of Columbia | Florida | Georgia | Hawaii | Idaho | Illinois | Indiana | Kansas | Kentucky* | Louisiana | Maine | Maryland | Massachusetts* | Michigan | Minnesota | Mississippi | Missouri | Montana | Nebraska* | Nevada | New Hampshire | New Jersey | New Mexico | New York | North Carolina | North Dakota* | Northern Mariana Islands* | Ohio | Oklahoma* | Oregon | Pennsylvania | Puerto Rico | Rhode Island | South Carolina | South Dakota* | Tennessee | Texas | Utah* | Vermont | Virginia | Virgin Islands | Washington | West Virginia | Wisconsin | Wyoming*
- **10 or more:** American Samoa* | Arkansas | Iowa

Guam also has imposed mandatory limits on large gatherings.

**Massachusetts' order is for the ages 70+, guidance for all others; Oklahoma's orders are for vulnerable populations only and includes a 10 person limit to mass gatherings for all others; South Dakota's order is for vulnerable individuals in 2 counties; 10 person limit to mass gatherings for all others; North Dakota has a recommendation; Kentucky, Nebraska, Utah and Wyoming have issued stay at home guidance. Northern Mariana Islands have stay at home guidance with a mandatory 10 person limit on public gatherings. American Samoa has a 10 person limit on private family gatherings.*

Updated each day 11:59 pm EST

Using Cloth Face Coverings in Public:

- **Recommended:** Alabama | Alaska | Arizona | Arkansas | California | Delaware | Florida | Georgia | Idaho | Illinois | Indiana | Iowa | Kansas | Kentucky | Louisiana | Maine | Massachusetts | Michigan | Minnesota | Mississippi | Missouri | Montana | Nebraska | Nevada | New Mexico | North Dakota | Northern Mariana Islands | Ohio | Oklahoma | Oregon | South Carolina | South Dakota | Texas | Utah | Virgin Islands | Virginia | Washington | West Virginia | Wisconsin | Wyoming
- **Mandatory:** Colorado* | Connecticut | District of Columbia* | Guam* | Hawaii* | Maryland* | New Hampshire* | New Jersey* | New York* | North Carolina* | Pennsylvania* | Puerto Rico | Rhode Island* | Vermont*
- Colorado: Essential business employees.
- District of Columbia: For employees and patrons in retail food sellers, hotels and taxis/rideshares.
- Guam: Essential business and government agency employees and patrons while on premises.
- Hawaii: Essential business employees and patrons while on premises
- New Jersey: Essential business employees and patrons while on premises and workers and customers in public transit.

- New Hampshire: Mandatory when entering a healthcare facility.
- New York: In all situations when social distancing is not possible; employers must provide to essential workers when directly interacting with the public.
- North Carolina: Mandatory for employees in nursing homes.
- Pennsylvania: Essential business employees and patrons while on premises; employers must provide to essential workers.
- Rhode Island: Essential business employees and patrons while on premises; employers must provide to essential workers
- Vermont: Essential business employees.

State Statutes Concerning Isolation & Quarantine:

<https://www.ncsl.org/research/health/state-quarantine-and-isolation-statutes.aspx>

Current Legislative Responses to COVID-19 by State

<https://www.ncsl.org/research/health/state-action-on-coronavirus-covid-19.aspx>

Current States with Executive Orders *(click on the link below for more information)*

<https://www.nga.org/coronavirus/#states>

Emergency Declarations by State

Alabama	Guam	Maine	New York	South Dakota
Alaska	Hawaii	Michigan	North Carolina	Tennessee
Arkansas	Iowa	Minnesota	North Dakota	Texas
Arizona	Idaho	Missouri	Northern Mariana Islands	Utah
California	Illinois	Mississippi	Ohio	Vermont
Colorado	Indiana	Montana	Oklahoma	Virgin Islands
Connecticut	Kansas	Nebraska	Oregon	Virginia
District of Columbia	Kentucky	Nevada	Pennsylvania	Washington
Delaware	Louisiana	New Hampshire	Puerto Rico	West Virginia
Florida	Massachusetts	New Jersey	Rhode Island	Wisconsin
Georgia	Maryland	New Mexico	South Carolina	Wyoming