



SAFER AT HOME Guidance for Life Rites and Places of Worship

Updated: September 14, 2020

The current statewide [Safer at Home order](#) allows for places of worship (also referred to as “houses of worship”) to conduct in-person services as well as in-person life rite ceremonies with appropriate social distancing and precautions. Life rites include wedding ceremonies, graduations, funeral services, baptisms, bris ceremonies, and other religious rites. Life rites guidance applies to the ceremony itself; gatherings such as receptions before or after a life rites ceremony must meet applicable indoor or outdoor events guidance.

Note: *In addition to pandemic-related restrictions, events must comply with all applicable laws, local codes, ordinances, permitting requirements, and public health orders. Check with the local jurisdiction(s) for any applicable restrictions or requirements.*

Please review the state’s current guidance on places of worship and life rite ceremonies here:

<https://covid19.colorado.gov/worship-guidance>

Attendance

- Individuals who are sick must remain at home
- Vulnerable individuals are strongly recommended to remain at home.

Planning Requirements

- Develop plans for:
 - [A protocol for symptom screening](#)
 - Social distancing across the venue or ceremony
 - Cleaning bathrooms and high touch surfaces between services
 - Direction of movement and seating for guests/worshippers during arrival and departure
 - Creating a “touchless” experience
- See the Capacity Limits guidance below to determine if you need to submit a plan to Boulder County Public Health for review.

Additional details and suggestions about how to develop these plans can be found in the [state guidance](#).

Face Covering Requirements

- Indoors:
 - Face coverings are required at all times for all individuals 11 years of age and older. Face coverings must be worn regardless of social distancing.
 - Officiants may remove a face covering while officiating a life rites or religious ceremony.
- Outdoors:
 - Social distancing must be maintained at all times. Face coverings are encouraged for all individuals 11 years of age and older participating while social distancing.
 - Face coverings are required outdoors if you are unable to maintain social distancing outside
 - Officiants may remove a face covering while officiating a life rites or religious ceremony



Capacity Limits

Indoor Capacity Limits

- Limited to 50% of the venue's capacity or up to 100 people per room, whichever is fewer. Use the [Social Distancing Calculator](#) to determine to determine the maximum occupancy for the venue and per room.
 - Extra-large venues, defined as greater than 7,200 square feet, that would like more than 100 patrons may use the [Social Distancing Calculator](#) for indoor events to determine how many additional patrons they can accommodate indoors, up to 100 people total per room
- Social distancing requirements (including 6 feet of distance between non-household members) must be strictly complied with at all times.
- Neither the State nor local Public Health orders allow any additional allowances for larger capacities indoors

Outdoor Capacity Limits

Up to and including 175 people:

- Follow all state guidance listed above
- Use the [Social Distancing Calculator](#) to determine the maximum occupancy for the outdoor venue
- Follow all outdoor events guidance from the state: <https://covid19.colorado.gov/safer-at-home/outdoor-events>

For outdoor life rite ceremonies and worship services of more than 175 people:

Please submit an event/venue plan for review by Boulder County Public Health no later than two weeks prior to the event.

If you expect to host multiple events in the same location(s) you may submit a single event management plan and indicate all planned event dates and times.

Approvals are for a location, maximum number of participants, and are automatically updated to ensure compliance with the Public Health Order in place at the time of the event.

Please provide the following information:

1. **Proposed event size.** The maximum number of participants is limited by the size of the designated space for the event. See the current Public Health Order for limits. Please use the [Social Distancing Space Calculator](#) to assist in determining an upper bound on the number of people in that space and indicate how you intend to ensure that no more than the maximum number of people are in attendance.
2. **Event location**, including municipality or whether the event will be located in unincorporated Boulder County.
3. **Contact information** (email and phone number) for venue manager or event organizer.
4. **Event Dates and Duration of each event**



5. Registration system

- This can be achieved through advanced ticketing, reservations, RSVPs, or having sign-in sheets. Please include times of arrival and departure, to help with potential exposure notification and contact tracing if necessary

6. Circulation and Social Distancing Plan

- Attach a diagram of the site indicating how the space is to be used with circulation patterns and spacing to maximize social distancing, including indicating how entry and exit from the space will be addressed
- Indicate whether participants are expected to remain in seated/stationary in designated areas during the event.
- Indicate how a social distancing protocol and signage will be implemented throughout the venue that ensures proper social distancing, mask wearing, and clearly indicates circulation patterns

7. Plan for Employees/Event Staff, including:

- A [symptom screening protocol](#) for employees
- A plan for employees to encourage and enforce social distancing and mask wearing
- Plans for cleaning bathrooms and high-touch areas on a regular basis

8. Transportation Plan, including:

- How entry and exit from the space will be addressed to avoid gatherings or clustering of people.
- Ensuring guests do not congregate or intermingle with other households or else move about from outside a designated household area during the event. This includes in the parking lot or near or around other transportation hubs during entry and exit from the event.

- Email graduation plans to: education@bouldercounty.org.
- Email all other plans to covidbiz@bouldercounty.org.

Receptions and Associated Parties

Must follow the guidance outlined for Special Events:

<https://assets.bouldercounty.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/safer-at-home-guidance-special-events.pdf>

- Limited to 50% capacity up to 100 people indoors
- Limited to up to 175 people outdoors
- Must use Social Distancing Calculator to determine capacity by size of space
- Additional restrictions apply, as outlined in guidance

Additional Resources

- [Colorado Department of Education Graduation Ceremony Guidance](#)
- [Alternatives to Typical Graduation Ceremonies](#)
- [Boulder County Public Health Facial Coverings Order](#)

