

# Church Gathering Risk Mitigation Tree

**Identify Church Gathering in Need of Analysis**

Has the local government banned or restricted gatherings above a certain size that would not allow this event from happening?



Can the church gathering be modified so that it can be held entirely online (i.e. live-streaming, no in-person participation)?



**OK TO PROCEED WITH MODIFIED (DIGITAL) CHURCH GATHERING**



**Conduct preliminary risk assessment**



**DO NOT PROCEED WITH CHURCH GATHERING (due to local ban or restrictions)**

Are there currently any reported cases of COVID-19 in your area?



Will the event be held indoors?



Will the event include a significant number of visitors/worshippers considered at high risk (e.g. people over 65 or with underlying health conditions)?



Will the event include practice that involve contact/touching between people or the touching of objects (offering plates, elements, papers, etc.)



Will the event be held indoors?



Will the event include a significant number of visitors/worshippers considered at high risk (e.g. people > 65 years of age or with underlying health conditions)?



Will the event include practice that involve contact/touching between people or the touching of objects (offering plates, elements, papers, etc.)



Will the event include a significant number of visitors/worshippers considered at high risk (e.g. people > 65 years of age or with underlying health conditions)?



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## To Improve Your Risk Score

1. Hold the church gathering entirely or partly online (i.e. live-streaming, no in-person participation for high risk groups).
2. Move the service outdoors.
3. Modify the service to ban the sharing of objects (offering plates, elements, papers, etc.).
4. Restrict touching (especially kissing, shaking hands, hugging) and ensure physical distancing between worshippers.
5. Have a cleaning and disinfecting schedule for venues and objects before, during, and after services.
6. Create opportunities for hand hygiene throughout the venue (places to wash your hands with soap, hand sanitizers, rubs, and gels).
7. Implement early risk communication strategies (e.g. advice to stay away if you feel unwell, if you are considered a high risk population, to follow social distancing connected to religious side events and other social gathers).