



COVID REGULATIONS

ISSUED OCTOBER 2020



Seventh-day Adventist Church
SOUTHEASTERN CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- Hygiene requirement
 - ✓ Prepare a **specific disinfection** protocol for facilities.
 - ✓ Provide **hand sanitizer** for members coming into and leaving the facilities for services.
- Screening requirement
 - ✓ **Ask all members and guests** arriving for a service whether they experienced COVID-19 symptoms within the last 14 days (at a minimum, fever, cough, sore throat, chills, muscle pain, headache, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, loss of taste or smell).
 - ✓ Those who are screened as positive for recent symptoms must be prevented from attending in-person services.
- Face coverings requirement
 - ✓ Face coverings are **always required** on church premises for everyone (except those who are exempt under state guidance, including young children under the age of two), including pastors, church staff, worship participants, members, and visitors.
 - ✓ Have extra **masks** on hand for those who come to church without facial coverings.
- Distancing requirement
 - ✓ Maintain appropriate distancing between people of different households.
 - ✓ **Refrain from physical contacts**, such as shaking hands, embracing, etc.

OTHER GUIDELINES

- Limit the time spent in **confined indoor spaces** to reduce the risk of transmission.
- If multiple services are needed, **schedule adequate time** between services for sanitizing the facility.
- **Increase outdoor air ventilation** of indoor spaces, improve central air filtration, and use portable room air cleaners.

The State of California published a new COVID-19 framework for regulating businesses and other entities, including places of worship, at a county-by-county level. SECC is incorporating these state regulations directly into the new guidance for our churches. More information is available at <https://covid19.ca.gov/safer-economy/>.

STATE REQUIREMENTS

Each county is assigned a risk tier (*see chart*) that is reevaluated on a weekly basis based on two metrics. The risk tier assignment determines how churches in that county can hold services.

County Risk Tier	Restrictions for Church Services
Purple Widespread	Outdoor services only with modifications
Red Substantial	Indoor services with modifications of 25% capacity or 100 persons, whichever is fewer
Orange Moderate	Indoor services with modifications of 50% capacity or 200 persons, whichever is fewer
Yellow Minimal	Indoor services with modifications of 50% capacity

More information, including restrictions on church office operations, is available at <https://covid19.ca.gov/industry-guidance/#worship>.

Other significant restrictions apply for all churches in the state, regardless of county risk tier assignments. (<https://files.covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-places-of-worship.pdf>)

1. "Children should remain in the care of those in their household unit and not interact with children of other parties at any time while visiting facilities." This means children's ministries (K-6 grade) and club ministries remain virtual only.
2. "Places of worship must...discontinue indoor singing and chanting activities..." Congregational singing is not permitted for indoor services.
3. "Do not hold potlucks or similar family-style eating and drinking events that increase the risk of cross contamination. If food and beverages must be served, provide items in single-serve, disposable containers whenever possible."

Consult the conference, if necessary, for assistance complying with state requirements regarding:

1. Reporting multiple positive cases within a two-week period in a congregation.
2. Isolation and quarantine protocols for "close contact" exposures.