



CITY OF NEWARK
RAS J. BARAKA
MAYOR

ERIC S. PENNINGTON
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

June 12, 2020

Dear Newark Faith-Based Community Member:

The City of Newark would like to thank you for your cooperation adhering to City and State directives during the COVID-19 pandemic. I know that this has been a difficult time for our faith-based community. As we slowly and carefully move towards some normalcy, it is important that we continue to adhere to protocols that offer maximum protections for participants and the public.

I am happy to announce that effective immediately, indoor religious gatherings may resume under the following conditions:

1. All faith-based organizations shall provide the City with a COVID-19 re-opening plan. This should include details of its COVID-19 cleaning protocol, social distancing strategy and indoor and outdoor service preparation plan.
2. The number of individuals at the religious gathering shall be limited to 25% of the capacity of the room in which it takes place, but regardless of the capacity of the room, such limit shall never be larger than 50 persons. If the religious gathering is held outdoors, it is limited to 100 persons;
3. All attendees at a religious gathering must wear face coverings at all times except where doing so would inhibit the individual's health or where the individual is under two years of age;
4. Individuals leading the religious gathering must wear face coverings whenever feasible, and must wear face coverings whenever they are within six feet of another individual, except where doing so would inhibit the individual's health;
5. All attendees at the religious gathering are required to be six feet apart from other attendees at all times, excluding immediate family members, caretakers, household members, or romantic partners, as well as excluding a limited number of individuals organizing or maintaining the gathering;
6. There may be no contact between attendees, excluding immediate family members, caretakers, household members, or romantic partners, and excluding a limited number of individuals organizing or maintaining the gathering;
7. Individuals organizing and leading the religious gathering, should, where applicable, demarcate six feet of spacing in the area of the gathering to demonstrate appropriate spacing for social distancing, such as through the placement of cones, flags, or other markings;



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8. Any physical items, including equipment, may not be shared by multiple attendees of the same religious gathering except for immediate family members, caretakers, household members, or romantic partners, unless such physical items are sanitized before and after use by different individuals; and
9. To the degree, the gathering requires pre-payment, or seeks donations of any kind, contactless options for pre-payment or donation, such as online or by telephone, must be offered wherever feasible.

The following protocols, if followed, will help reduce the chance that COVID-19 will spread at your gathering and expose our City to further outbreaks. Please submit plan to the Mayor's Office of Clergy Affairs via email – RountreeL@ci.newark.nj.us or keed@ci.newark.nj.us

Thank you for your attention to this matter and feel free to reach out to Rev. Louise Scott-Rountree or Mr. Kee at (973-733-5605) if you have any questions.

Sincerely

Eric S. Pennington
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Business Administrator



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