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**CITY OF EVERETT**

**HOUSES OF WORSHIP GUIDELINES**

The phases of re-opening have begun in Massachusetts. Phase 1, announced Monday May 18, 2020, allows for the immediate open of H**ouses of Worship**, Houses of Worship must follow the **State** guidelines, which include:

* Limit occupancy to 40 percent of the building’s maximum permitted occupancy level.
* Attendees who are not part of an immediate household must be seated at least 6 feet apart.
* If there is fixed seating, rows should be blocked off and kept empty to allow for sufficient distancing between rows.
* All attendees and staff must wear face coverings or masks in accordance with the Department of Public Health’s Guidance while inside and while entering and exiting.
* Conduct and offer remote participation when possible.
* Promote ventilation for enclosed spaces where possible (opening windows and doors).
* Ensure the availability of handwashing facilities and proper hand sanitizers.
* No communal gathering **pre or post** service (e.g., coffee hours or other food services).
* If a place of worship learns that an attendee or worker or other worker has tested positive, it shall notify the local Board of Health immediately.
* Consider setting up a no-touch method to collect contributions, and encouraging contributions through mail or electronic means.
* Places of worship are encouraged to modify communal rituals like prepackaged sacraments.
* Places of worship shall be cleaned and disinfected between each service.
* If a place of worship learns that an infected individual, it shall conduct a deep cleaning and disinfecting consistent with the Centers for Disease Control guidance.

The City of Everett is also recommending these additional measures:

* Instruct attendees at the outset of every gathering, and post signage at the entrance regarding the guidelines.
* Use separate doors to enter and exit the establishment when possible.
* Use one-way isles when possible.
* Consider shorter services to avoid the need for people to use bathroom facilities.
* Consider discontinuing use of common items (e.g., microphones, books, hymnals, texts) that may be shared between people and are difficult to clean (using handouts instead using gloves).
* Please observe social distancing outside of the building.