



Town of Orange, Connecticut

Health Department – Environmental Division

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Allowing Congregational Prayers and Religious Events in Town of Orange starting May 20, 2020

The Orange Health Department would like to acknowledge the co-operation and timely efforts by all the religious leaders and institutions for taking proactive actions and thereby containing the COVID-19 pandemic by discontinuing all types of religious activities and gatherings since the issuance of first notice dated 3/16/2020.

As per the Governor's Sector rules related to the reopening of Connecticut on May 20th, the town of Orange is also allowing the re-opening of all the religious institutions and house of worships to resume religious gatherings of **50 people or less** while employing the reasonable and appropriate distancing measures as required by the executive order issued by the Governor.

Since COVID-19 pandemic is not completely over, all religious leaders are encouraged to modify specific religious rites, rituals, and services. Some examples of preventive actions include:

- Nodding, bowing, or waving instead of shaking hands, hugging, or kissing
- Avoiding holding hands during the service/prayers
- Wearing facial covering/mask (cloth, surgical etc.) at all time
- Always maintaining social distance (at least 6 ft.)
- Teach and reinforce healthy hygiene practices
- Cleaning and disinfecting high touched surfaces (e.g., doorknobs, light switches, classroom sink handles, countertops)
- Require sick staff and volunteers to stay home

We hope that the level of guidance will gradually become less restrictive over time, as our confidence in the ability to monitor and contain the COVID-19 disease throughout the town improves.

We greatly appreciate your ongoing co-operation in implementing proactive steps that have been effective in limiting community wide transmission of Coronavirus through people contact and large gatherings at the religious buildings in the town of Orange.

Please contact the Orange Health Department if you have any questions or require further guidance related to this announcement.

Dr. Amir Mohammad

Director of Health, Town of Orange