

Pastoral Visits

Guidelines for Pastoral Visits by Pastors, Parish Visitors, and Staff Members Session approved 5/4/21

According to the *Long Beach Safer At Home Order for Control of COVID-19* (4/16/21), Long Beach is now in the Orange Tier (moderate COVID-19 spread),

Following the 4/16/21 *Long Beach Safer At Home Order* and the 7/29/20 *California Industry Guidance: places of worship and providers of religious services and cultural ceremonies*, outdoor services are strongly encouraged and indoor services are recommended to remain at 50% capacity with certain modifications. Please follow the guidance from the city and state for more complete information.

Back office staff and management may operate indoors and in-person according to the *Long Beach Office Worksite Protocol*. Masks must be worn and a physical distance of 6 ft must be maintained. Please refer to the *Faithful Phasing* document and the *Office Worksite Protocol* for complete guidelines.

Remote pastoral visits are encouraged to avoid the health risks inherent in in-person visits. However, in-person visits are also permitted at the pastors'/ parish visitor's/staff member's discretion, only if the parishioner also agrees to the visit. Great care must be taken to ensure the safety of all concerned. This applies to anyone who makes an in-person visit on behalf of the church.

The Reopening Team recommends permitting in-person pastoral visits by pastors, parish visitors, or church staff members, following the *Faithful Phasing* document guidelines and the 4/16/21 *Long Beach Safer At Home Order*, and California Department of Public Health memo, *COVID-19 Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People*, 4/15/21.

1. All in-person visits are at the pastors'/ parish visitors'/ staff members' discretion and with the parishioner's permission.
2. Pastoral visits in a **private setting** :
 - Persons who are fully vaccinated may visit other fully vaccinated people, indoors without masks or physical distancing.
 - Persons who are fully vaccinated may also visit UNvaccinated people from a single household who are at low risk for severe COVID-19 disease, indoors without masks or physical distancing.
 - Persons, vaccinated or unvaccinated, who visit parishioners who are at high risk for severe illness from COVID-19 (65 or older and all people of any age with underlying health conditions) should wear a mask and maintain at least 6 ft physical distance and remain outdoors.
3. Pastoral visits in a **public setting**, such as a health care facility or a workplace;
 - Pastoral visitors must wear a mask and maintain a physical distance of 6 ft.

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4. Pastors /parish visitors/ staff members and the visited parishioner must sign a COVID-19 release form.
5. Pastors/ parish visitors/ staff members who visit a parishioner on behalf of the church, must attend a COVID-19 training session, provided by Chris Chandler.
6. Pastors, parish visitors, staff members will be health-screened (check for signs and symptoms) before they go on a pastoral visit.
7. Parishioners will also be health-screened by the pastor/ visitor, staff member (check for signs and symptoms) upon arrival.
8. Pastors/parish visitors/ staff members must document when/ where they go and notify Chris Chandler.
9. The visit should be outdoors if at all possible.
10. Hygiene practices must be observed (washing hands/ using sanitizer, no touching)