

**Approval of Religious Services and
Cultural Ceremonies and Activities at Places of Worship within San
Joaquin County
DATE OF ORDER: May 26, 2020**

Please read this Order carefully. Violation of or failure to comply with this Order is a misdemeanor punishable by fine, imprisonment, or both. (California Health and Safety Code § 120295, et seq.)

UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE SECTIONS 101040, 101470, 101475, 101085, 120175, 120200, 120210 AND 120215 THE HEALTH OFFICER OF THE COUNTY OF SAN JOAQUIN ("HEALTH OFFICER") ORDERS:

1. Effective immediately, all places of worship and providers of religious services and cultural ceremonies (collectively "Places of Worship") are permitted to operate in San Joaquin County.
2. All Places of Worship are expected to fully implement the guidance issued by the California Department of Public Health which can be found at: <https://covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-places-of-worship.pdf>
3. There continue to be infections and deaths at a rate in San Joaquin County that necessitate a firm and carefully planned and managed response as the California economy is reopened. Notwithstanding the State's success in slowing the spread of COVID-19, the current number of cases in San Joaquin County is now at 771 and the total number of deaths is at 33 as of Monday, May 25, 2020, an increase of over 20% since April 27, 2020. There continue to be infections and deaths at a rate in San Joaquin County that necessitate careful and thoughtful adherence to the State's Pandemic Roadmap for reopening the economy which has been set in stages based on the risk level of resuming various activities.
4. From a public health perspective, the high percentage of pre-symptomatic spread, in conjunction with the communal nature of religious services and the time spent in an enclosed facility supports the need to impose these added State Guidelines and to be cautious in the reopening of in-person religious facilities. Places of worship have unfortunately been identified as one source of the rapid spread of COVID-19 both worldwide and in the United States.
5. Because even people without symptoms can transmit the disease, and because evidence shows the disease is easily spread, public activities can result in preventable transmission of the virus. The scientific evidence shows that at this stage of the emergency, it is essential to continue to slow virus transmission as much as possible to protect the most vulnerable and to prevent the health care system from being overwhelmed. While the evidence in San Joaquin County suggests that the individual efforts taken to date are reducing the transmission rate, it is imperative that everyone continues to abide by the Social Distancing Requirements and by the Industry Guidance published by the State of California.
6. This Order is issued in accordance with the March 4, 2020 Proclamation of a State of Emergency issued by Governor Gavin Newsom, and Executive orders N-25-20, N-33-20, and N-60-20; the

Order of the San Joaquin Public Health Officer Implementing the CDPH COVID-19 Industry Guidance for Places of Worship

Public Health orders of the State Public Health Officer of March 19, 2020 and May 7, 2020; the Declaration of Local Health Emergency issued by the Health Officer on March 12, 2020, and the March 17, 2020 Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Joaquin Ratifying the Declarations of Local Health Emergency; and the orders of the County Public Health Officer of March 21, March 26, April 14, April 24 and May 8, 2020. This order supercedes section 11. h. of the Order of the County Stay At Home Order of May 8, 2020.

7. This Order implements the Covid-19 Industry Guidance: Places of Worship and Providers of Religious Services and Cultural Ceremonies published by California Department of Public Health on May 25, 2020. The County Public Health Department and the California Department of Public Health will re-evaluate this order in 21 days.
8. Pursuant to Government Code sections 26602 and 41601 and Health and Safety Code section 101029, the Health Officer requests that the Sheriff and all chiefs of police in the County ensure compliance with and enforce this Order. The violation of any provision of this Order constitutes an imminent threat to public health. Consistent with the views expressed by the Governor and after consulting with the San Joaquin County Sheriff, the Public Health Officer believes that enforcement through education is preferable but that other means of enforcement may be employed, as deemed appropriate by the law enforcement agencies.
9. This Order shall become effective immediately, and will continue to be in effect until it is rescinded in writing by the Health Officer.
10. Copies of this Order shall promptly be: (1) made available at the County Administration Building at 44 N. San Joaquin, Stockton 95202, First Floor; (2) posted on the San Joaquin County Home page (sjgov.org); and (3) provided to any member of the public requesting a copy of this Order.
11. If any provision of this Order or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held to be invalid, the remainder of the Order, including the application of such part or provision to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected and shall continue in full force and effect. To this end the provisions of this Order are severable.

IT IS SO ORDERED:

Maggie Park, M.D.
San Joaquin County
Public Health Officer

Dated: May 26, 2020


