



COVID-19 GUIDANCE

Conducting faith activities remotely/virtually

Most religious leaders and communities of faith will probably make the decision to cancel services and other gatherings for a time in the Covid-19 pandemic. Large gatherings are already banned or are being discouraged in many countries. Church leaders should remember that they are important community role models for reinforcing government recommendations and showing how communities can still connect through remote or virtual activities. The suggestions below are already being used by many religious leaders to maintain connections with and among their members using high- and low-tech solutions. Where online technologies are used, religious leaders could consider providing information on the potential security and safeguarding risks, particularly where children and vulnerable adults are concerned.¹

Use technology to maintain community and continue worship

Consider how your faith community or organisation can use technology to make services and other faith-based events available online. Consider partnering with other organisations to make the most of online communication For example:

- Video- or audio-record worship services and ceremonies, and broadcast them or post them on social media.
- Continue pastoral care for individuals by using the phone or through social media and video chat platforms (eg WhatsApp).
- Use a remote or virtual meeting platform (eg Skype, Zoom) or teleconference facilities for meetings or small-group interactive prayer.
- Expand the use of television and radio channels.



¹ This material has been adapted from the World Health Organization's guidance for [Faith-based organisations and faith leaders](#).

Use low-tech solutions to keep faith activities going in the community

Not every faith-based organisation has the capacity to engage with its members using advanced technology. Even so, the community can continue to connect in the following ways:

- Telephone calls between members of the faith community for paired-prayer and use of telephone 'chat' services such as WhatsApp
- Setting times when your church members can observe religious practice together remotely (prayer, specific liturgies etc), perhaps at the same time every day or week, despite being apart physically Encouraging individuals and households to pray or observe other spiritual practices. See [Tearfund's Covid-19 biblical resources](#), including Bible studies and a section on 'Prayer and spiritual practices'
- Compiling and circulating requests for prayer