

Guidance on Hosting Faith-Based Services in Parking Lots

4/10/2020

The State of Minnesota understands important religious holidays are approaching and communities are seeking clarification on how they can observe the holidays.

The safest way to observe holidays and religious services is for everyone to stay home.

Services can be provided remotely so that attendees do not need to leave their homes. Remember that COVID-19 is a highly contagious virus that is fatal for many people and is still spreading throughout Minnesota. Staying home is a crucial way to slow the spread of COVID-19 and to protect our community.

If your community is considering hosting a service in a parking lot, please:

- Remember the safest option right now is for everyone to stay home.
- Consider whether having a parking lot service encourages people in high-risk groups (particularly older adults and people with underlying health conditions) to come out rather than stay at home. People may come out because of their commitment to their faith community and not wanting to be “left out.”

If your community decides to host a service in a parking lot:

- Each household should be in a separate car; carpooling does not comply with social distancing.
- Make it clear that people with COVID-19 symptoms (cough, fever, shortness of breath, etc.) should not attend.
- Attendees should remain in their cars.
 - If attendees are in cars with the windows up, cars may park immediately adjacent to one another.
 - If attendees are in cars with windows down, cars should park 6 feet apart.
- Make the event brief.
- Do not serve food or beverages at the event.
- There should be no passing of objects or physical contact between households.
- Do not provide public or portable bathrooms; this creates a risk of transmission.

Thank you for helping protect the health of your faith community and our community in Minnesota.