

Updated Stage 4 Religious Gathering Restrictions

Quote from Gov. Mills recent Announcement:

*Beginning a week from today [Tuesday, October 13] , businesses and organizations that serve people through seated activities – such as indoor dining, religious gatherings, and movie theaters – will be permitted to operate at 50 percent of their capacity, with a maximum of 100 people. Updated COVID-19 Checklists for these businesses and organizations are posted on the Department of Economic and Community Development’s website. Appropriate health and safety protocols, such as enhanced cleaning practices and **the requirement to maintain six feet of distance between seating areas, remains in full effect.***

FAQ's

In summary, what changed for churches with the Gov. Mills’ announcement that Maine is going into stage 4?

The only thing that has changed is the restriction upon the number of attendees for indoor religious gatherings.

There are still just two mandates for such gatherings.

1. Social distancing
2. Attendees being limited to 50% capacity of the sanctuary/room or 100 attendees (whichever is smaller of the two).

All other measures regarding cleaning, dismissing attendees, communion, singing, etc., are guidelines, not mandates. Click [here](#) to see In-Person Gathering Guidelines

Does the expanded mask requirement apply to religious gatherings? No, while the CDC still strongly recommends that masks be worn (especially while entering, exiting, and singing), masks are not required for religious gatherings.

How do I calculate 50% capacity? The capacity of any room is based upon the state fire code allowance for that space. For example, if your church auditorium/sanctuary has a fire code capacity of 150 people, the new standard would allow up to 75 attendees per service.