

Guidelines for 10 or Fewer Gathering for Recording or Live-streaming (with no congregation present)

Since the pandemic began, small groups of 10 or fewer people have been gathering to record or livestream worship for their congregations. These sessions have provided comfort and inspiration for many people while maintaining a sense of connection with worship leaders. Thankfully, despite recent reported incidents, these sessions have largely been free of virus-related complications.

We have never offered specific guidance for these settings, but the general principles for mitigating virus transmission outlined in the Technical Assistance Manual (TAM) are still important as the virus does not distinguish between recording settings and other forms of in-person worship. Singing, for instance, remains an activity with significant risk for virus spread.

We continue to learn as we go and we offer this recommended guidance for those churches that want to provide a safe environment for their worship leaders using the best current practices. Please plan as carefully for these sessions as you would for in-person worship.

1. Wear a face mask covering nose, mouth, and chin before, during, and after the gathering. A worship leader, singer, or pastor who would like to record without being masked can record in a separate room from others. Members of the same household group may record unmasked together in a separate room.
2. If a sound/video person is needed, where possible, have them exit the room before recording begins and monitor remotely. Software is available that allows mixing of multiple singers and accompaniment of both audio and video recordings recorded remotely by isolated individuals on smartphones and tablets.
3. Use of outdoor settings for recording and streaming is strongly encouraged.
4. Arrange for health acknowledgement of all participants (by online, phone, or poster/entryway method). Check temperatures on arrival.
5. Keep social distance of 6 feet or more.
6. Limit the duration of rehearsal and recording, not to exceed 40 minutes total.
7. Wash hands or use hand disinfectant before and after the session.
8. Ensure good ventilation in the recording space by opening windows and doors as the weather will allow, altering HVAC operations to increase air

changes to at least six per hour, increasing intake of fresh (makeup) air as much as practical, and considering use of a portable air cleaner. Consult your HVAC service provider to make alterations. See the summary of Ventilation Recommendations on the In-Person Worship web page.

9. No more than 4 persons should be singing in these settings. (Singing is still restricted in other settings according to the provisions in the TAM). Ideally, they will be masked or in a separate room from the rest of the team and greatly distanced.

Thank you for your accommodation for the sake of loving others.