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Montezuma County Public Health Department Addresses Church Services

Montezuma County Public Health Department (MCPHD) understands the importance of community involvement in upcoming religious holidays. With the knowledge of COVID-19 present in our county, MCPHD offers the following recommendations for participating in religious services while preventing the spread of COVID-19 and adhering to the Governor's and Public Health Orders.

Valuing the sanctity of life and protecting the lives of our families, elders and community members should be at the forefront of any decision made to attend a religious service outside of the home. MCPHD strongly encourages all community members to attend services of their choice via electronic means, such as TV, radio, live-stream or social media platforms.

MCPHD **strongly discourages** drive-up or parking lot services at house of worship facilities. The act of traveling to a place of worship does not adhere to the Governor's Stay At Home Order, and monitoring of the event to ensure there is no physical interaction between participants is not guaranteed.

If community members still choose to attend religious services outside of their home, the guidelines set forth by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and Governor Polis must be followed:

Use your own personal device for audio or video.

Stay in your vehicle and do not socialize through your vehicle window.

There should be no other opportunity for in-person interaction. There should be no available gathering spaces to congregate outside of the vehicle.

If church restrooms are available, they should be used by only one person at a time. Places of worship must adhere to CDPHE cleaning guidelines.

More guidelines for places of worship can be found at: <https://covid19.colorado.gov/sites/covid19/files/COVID-19%20Guidance%20for%20Places%20of%20Worship%20040220.pdf>

Montezuma County Public Health Department is proud of the efforts made by community members to stay at home, keep a 6' distance between others when in public, and follow all recommendations to prevent the spread of COVID-19. During the upcoming religious holidays, everyone must continue to take responsibility for their own actions and remain diligent in their efforts to protect themselves and others from COVID-19.