

***** HEALTH OFFICER STATEMENT *****
**INDOOR RELIGIOUS SERVICES MAY RESUME WITH A 25%
CAPACITY LIMIT SUBJECT TO RESTRICTIONS ON SINGING
AND CHANTING, AND REQUIREMENTS FOR FACE
COVERING, DISTANCING AND OTHER SAFETY
PROTOCOLS**

February 6, 2020

SAN FRANCISCO (Feb. 6, 2021) – Acting Health Officer Dr. Susan Philip released the following statement today after a decision by the U.S. Supreme Court in *South Bay United Pentecostal Church v. Newsom*, issued last evening, lifted California’s ban on indoor religious services in tier 1 (the purple tier) and allowing instead a 25% capacity limit, and continuing the restrictions on singing and chanting during those services.

“In light of the U.S. Supreme Court’s recent decision indoor religious services may resume at houses of worship in San Francisco at 25% capacity, effective immediately. Those services are subject to restrictions on singing, chanting and playing wind or brass instruments as well as requirements that all participants, faith leaders and personnel wear face coverings, maintain social distancing with members from different households, and follow the other safety protocols for indoor worship as more fully set forth in Health Directive No. 2020-34 [See the links under gatherings to indoor worship and best practices for indoor worship at <https://www.sfdph.org/dph/alerts/coronavirus-health-directives.asp>].

In the coming days I will be updating the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order and companion directive to reflect this change. While indoor services at reduced capacity are now allowed, case rates remain high, several identified virus variants pose additional risks and there is still the possibility of another surge in cases and hospitalizations.

I urge houses of worship and participants to take extra care and precaution to follow the safety protocols the Department of Public Health has established. I also particularly urge seniors and other people with chronic conditions or compromised immune systems – and those who live with seniors and people with such conditions –to defer participating in indoor religious services at this time and to find safer alternatives to practice their faith, such as participating in outdoor services or remote streaming of services.”