

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
OFFICE OF THE FIRST PRESIDENCY
47 EAST SOUTH TEMPLE STREET, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84150-1200

September 11, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Safely Engaging in Church Meetings and Activities

Under the guidance of the First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, Area Presidencies approve meetings and activities in their areas. Local circumstances and regulations regarding COVID-19 vary, sometimes within the same Church area.


The enclosure with this letter outlines principles and details to help leaders adjust Church meetings and activities in careful ways, according to local needs and circumstances and consistent with local regulations. Using technology and safe in-person practices, many opportunities exist for presidencies and councils to meet, for youth to be encouraged and supported, and for meaningful worship, ministering, and service to occur.

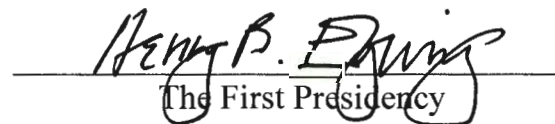
Beginning in November, when assigned by the President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles and as circumstances and technology allow, stake conferences may be held virtually or with careful social distancing, as appropriate.

We are grateful for inspired patterns of ministering and home-centered Church-supported efforts that allow the Lord's work to move forward in current conditions.

Sincerely yours,







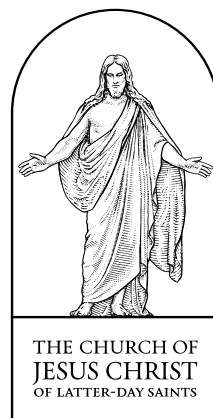
The First Presidency

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In challenging times, disciples of Jesus Christ continue to follow Him by participating in His work of salvation and exaltation. He invites us to participate by progressing on the covenant path and helping others do the same however circumstances allow.

Under the guidance of the First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, Area Presidencies approve meetings and activities in their areas. The following principles guide the Lord's work:



Principle	Administering the Church
Remember members by name and nourish them spiritually and temporally (see Moroni 6:4–5).	Hold presidency and council meetings (including for Aaronic Priesthood quorums and Young Women classes) virtually or safely in person according to local conditions. Stake and ward leaders (and youth quorum and class presidencies) carry forth the work of salvation.
Strengthen members and help bear their burdens (see Mosiah 18:8–11; Doctrine and Covenants 20:47, 59).	Continue ministering and ministering interviews , including concern for those with special needs. Using safe practices, under the direction and keys of the bishop, regularly administer the sacrament in homes to those who wish to receive it, if practical.
Uplift one another and create unity through activities (see Mosiah 18:21; Doctrine and Covenants 121:9).	Hold youth meetings, activities, and service projects , virtually or safely in person according to local conditions, on Sunday or other days. Help youth connect and grow through the Children and Youth program at home and at church. Many families are teaching and singing with their Primary-age children at home using resources available for Primary children.

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<p>Gather members often to fast, to pray, and to speak concerning the welfare of their souls (see Alma 6:6; Moroni 6:6).</p>	<p>Under the direction and keys of the bishop, hold weekly sacrament meeting, virtually, safely in person, or by hybrid in-person and virtual broadcast, according to local needs and regulations. Such transmissions should not be recorded. Support members who need to continue home Sabbath worship in the current circumstances.</p> <p>Since a sacrament broadcast does not include the administration of the sacrament, consider initiating the broadcast following the sacrament, or alternatively, holding the sacrament portion of the meeting last, so those viewing the sacrament meeting virtually see the program without interruption.</p> <p>Local leaders help ensure all wishing to receive the ordinance of the sacrament can do so in person administered by authorized priesthood holders.</p>
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