

The New Gathering Capacity Limit Order Does Not Apply to Churches

We want to give you a briefing on the new orders from the Governor and the PA Department Of Health announced July 15th, 2020. Many of you are most likely wondering how this order pertains to churches and church life.

1. The New Gathering Capacity Limit Order Does Not Apply to Churches. The Governor and Dr. Levine were both asked at the press conference if the new order applied to religious institutions and they both responded with “No.” Pennlive news article. Here is the exact language from the new orders as it pertains to events and gatherings:

Events and gatherings other than those in businesses in the retail food services industry addressed by Section 1.

A. Indoor events and gatherings of more than 25 persons are prohibited.

B. Outdoor events and gatherings of more than 250 persons are prohibited.

C. For the purposes of this Order, “event and gathering” is defined as:

A temporary grouping of individuals for defined purposes, that takes place over a limited timeframe, such as hours or days. For example, events and gatherings include fairs, festivals, concerts, or shows and groupings that occur within larger, more permanent businesses, such as shows or performances within amusement parks, individual showings of movies on a single screen/auditorium within a multiplex, business meetings or conferences, or each party or reception within a multi-room venue.

[Click here to read the Governor’s order.](#)

[Click here to read the Secretary of Health’s order.](#)