



Post COVID-19: Social Distancing Through Environmental Design (SDTED)

FEDERATION
COVID-19
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The time will eventually come for us to enter newly configured social spaces. This document is meant to provide options for consideration **once quarantine restrictions have been lifted by the appropriate authorities.**

The concept of Social Distancing Through Environmental Design (SDTED) was developed and shared by Matthew R. Dimmick, CPP, PSP, CPD, as an evolution of the concept of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED). His concepts have been tailored here to the concerns of our faith-based community.

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) is a theory developed in the 1970s based on one simple idea: crime results in part from opportunities presented by the physical environment. Therefore, it should be possible to alter the physical environment so crime is less likely to occur.

Social Distancing Through Environmental Design (SDTED) is based on the concept that we can alter our physical environment to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

The principles of CPTED — natural surveillance, natural access control, territorial reinforcement, maintenance, and target hardening — have been adapted to support the implementation of social distancing. This supportive strategy may potentially help flatten the curve, get people back to work and the synagogue, and reduce the likelihood of resurgence of the virus when isolation and quarantine are lifted. Please see below for a summary of these principles accompanied by examples of how they may be applied to SDTED principles to help fight coronavirus.

Natural surveillance is intended to provide the opportunity for legitimate users of the space to observe the space around them as they engage in their normal activity.

In **SDTED**, the benefits of natural surveillance are as follows:

Promote open movement of congregants and guests, without unnecessary close contact (i.e., less than 6 feet).

Facilitate the normalization of wearing personal protective equipment (such as masks and gloves).



Natural access control is intended to physically guide people through a site. In CPTED, this is accomplished through the strategic design of streets, sidewalks, building entrances, and landscaping.

In **SDTED**, the space should be designed to help congregants use it while keeping their distance. This is the most impactful principle for promoting social distancing and mitigating the spread of coronavirus.

For example, the implementation of 6-foot distance markers should allow congregants freedom of movement while maintaining a safe distance. The use of ushers, standing at a safe distance, to gently remind congregants to move conversations outside or into another space will help ease traffic in areas that were formerly congregating spaces.



Territorial reinforcement under CPTED gives the perception that property is owned and controlled.

In **SDTED**, territorial reinforcement is achieved by placing signage and other reminders of social distancing requirements, hand-sanitizing stations, coughing and sneezing etiquette, and other mitigation strategies at site transition points (parking lots, site entry doors, etc.). Individuals in the facility interior should be regularly reminded through signage to observe social distancing.

For example, propping doors that are not critical to security programs may be one step that can be taken to reduce touchpoints, limiting potential contact with germs. A capable guardian, security officer, or physically able congregant can monitor the door at a safe distance while ensuring that the facility provides a visual deterrent and a capable response force to respond to any perceived threat.



Maintenance under CPTED is intended to allow the site or facility to continue to be used for its intended purpose. **Target hardening** is the use of physical barriers to entry (e.g., locked doors, bollards, vehicle barriers, boulders) and enhanced technological security to mitigate risks.

SDTED combines these principles through preventative cleaning. Cleaning and disinfecting of frequently used surfaces and items is key in addressing maintenance and target hardening.

If possible, you may move services and other functions between primary and backup locations or change the schedules to allow cleaning and disinfection of surfaces between gatherings. For guidance on cleaning and disinfecting for coronavirus, please refer to the resources below from the CDC and OSHA:

www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/cleaning-disinfection.html

www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3990.pdf

SDTED supports compliance and enhances spatial awareness. We hope this information sheet will promote thought-leadership and direct energy toward solving this issue.

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**If you or your organization has any questions
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