

Phased Coronavirus Response Outline for UUAC

As a public institution with large public gatherings, we know that we may be advised to limit or cancel large gatherings, and that information and preparedness are two factors that will help prevent widespread panic while supporting public health containment. This document is put together in an effort to think through factors at play for churches and how we might plan ahead now.

Here's some CDC links related to faith communities, some using pandemic flu as a model:

[Faith Communities Checklist](#)

[CDC Coronavirus Info](#)

[Planning Tip Sheet](#)

[What to Expect](#)

PHASED PLAN:

We plan to follow the CDC and local Department of Public Health recommendations as they come out. Here are our tiered recommendations of increasing severity of the Coronavirus paired with increasing interventions:

PHASE 1: Things to do prior to local community transmission:

- Place hand sanitizer prominently at all entrances (ideally, the portable ones on the stand or put them on a podium/table/stool that we can put right at the entrances, in an obvious way)
- Put signs up in all the bathrooms about proper handwashing and COVID-19 symptoms.
 - [Option 1](#)
 - [Option 2](#)
 - [Option 3](#)
- Start reminding people that if they are experiencing flu-like symptoms, they should stay home (including staff).
 - Discuss with Board of Directors and personnel team early: ask staff to stay home at any signs of illness, but make a commitment to pay hourly workers regardless of attendance and not use accrued sick time during this time.
- Wipe down doorknobs to bathrooms and entrances with bleach-based cleaners at least every other day, ideally daily.

- Ask Caring Committee/wider group make soups and meals now that can be stored in the church freezer for if/when people become sick.
 - Ask now, prior to local transmission, so that we can have a backlog of food while preventing the concern about contact/infection via food prep by infected individuals)
 - Give out quart-sized soup containers at coffee hour for people to take home, make soup, and bring back.

PHASE 2: *If there are local precaution advisories/ if the virus is present locally:*

- Keep having church/meetings/working on site, but:
 - Stop doing greet your neighbors time, or move to non-contact greetings only.
 - Stop doing receiving line-- no shaking hands or hugs.
 - Only offer coffee at coffee hour-- no food.
- Board communicates to staff-- especially hourly staff-- about taking precautions for cold symptoms especially with fever, staying home if they have any signs of illness without penalty, and we will still pay them.
- Postpone high-risk gatherings or gatherings targeting vulnerable populations (ie, bowling with families, Women's Alliance (typically older adults) gatherings, Pie Sunday, fundraising dinners).

PHASE 3: *If schools are cancelled and/or large gatherings are discouraged by CDC/Local authorities:*

At this point, social isolation becomes a real concern for people's spiritual and emotional health. Think about how to support people's spiritual and emotional health when routines are disrupted or contact is limited:

- Cancel weekly in-person worship. Hold online weekly gatherings via Zoom (live time on Sunday mornings with readings, short reflections, spiritual practices, and songs.)
- Encourage all covenant groups to meet online via Zoom to stay connected and support those experiencing social isolation.
- Hold a mid-week Zoom check in call for those who may be struggling, for parents of young children, etc.
- Have weekly staff meetings via Zoom.
- Send out semi-regular pastoral emails with resources, invitations to reach out to the ministers if you are struggling, and encouragement to stay connected with others via electronic means.
- Call on Lay Pastoral Care Team to make phone calls to individuals or host Zoom check ins for larger groups.
- Ask Caring Committee to continue to support people who may get the illness
 - Have pre-made meals in UUAC freezer (make these in Phase 1)

- Ask folks who are sick to leave a cooler on their porch to limit social contact during drop-offs