

Responding to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

Kentucky Ministries of the Church of God is aware that we are experiencing a Pandemic with this virus. Much is still not known regarding this virus and daily our news outlets report new cases in America. In Kentucky we have several persons diagnosed with Coronavirus in Cynthiana, Lexington and Louisville.

Our governor has asked that churches consider not holding services this weekend as a means of providing protection for our citizens. Several very large churches have announced that services are suspended. What should you do?

First let me say that each congregation should react in a responsible manner based on their local risk factors. I would ask that you answer two important questions that can assist you in making a wise decision.

1. Do I worship in a community with active cases?
2. Do I have a large population of persons who may fit the highest risk group?

These two questions should give you a better idea of what responsible action you should take.

Secondly should you have worship services, I suggest that you consider the following protocols.

1. Have multiple locations where hand sanitizer is available.
2. Suspend a time of greeting that encourages hand shaking, hugging, etc. Instead choose alternate methods for greeting one another such as “the coronavirus elbow bumping”, “fist bumping” or one pastor suggested using the old hippie days “peace symbol”. Or for the coordinated you can try the “foot shaking” method.
3. Suspend self-serve coffee and pastries. Instead have persons who are properly attired with gloves serve your guests.
4. Should you serve communion, it would be wise to use the self-contained pre-packaged communion sets.

Finally let me remind you that we should not live in fear, but rather act responsibly by practicing good hygiene. Especially when washing hands (wash often). If you cough please remember to cough or sneeze into your sleeve, not into your hand.

We have a wonderful opportunity as Christians to show the world that we do not live in fear, but in a confidence trusting our Lord to grant us wisdom as we seek to worship and serve Him.