

Tips for Maintaining a Healthy Faith Community

Developed in conjunction with the Hamilton County Pandemic Influenza Faith Advisory Committee

During an influenza pandemic, you can get trusted, up-to-date information from the following resources in our community:

- Hamilton County General Health District Web site – www.hamiltoncountyhealth.org
- U.S. Pandemic Influenza Web site – www.pandemicflu.gov
- Ohio Department of Health Pandemic Influenza Web site – www.ohiopandemicflu.gov
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – www.cdc.gov

Topic	General Prevention Messages
Communion	<p>Designate one person to distribute communion. The person should wear gloves during, or wash hands or use hand sanitizer immediately prior to distributing communion. Items needed for this should be readily available.</p> <p>Use single serving bread (pre-made wafers) or host in lieu of communal loaf of bread.</p> <p>Discontinue use of shared wine chalice; consider individual servings.</p> <p>Do not dip bread in wine.</p> <p>Discourage use of wine</p> <p>Discontinue “finishing off” wine.</p> <p>Consider using less wine in anticipation, so not to waste.</p> <p>Encourage receiving communication in hand, not in mouth.</p>
Going to Church	<p><i>For Administration</i></p> <p>Reassure congregation that it is ok to stay home; in fact it is the right thing to do.</p> <p>Consider adding more, but shorter services to avoid crowded masses.</p> <p>Consider adding boxes of tissues at the end of the pews or in other areas of the church. Encourage members to dispose of used tissues appropriately.</p> <p>Consider practicing social distancing guidelines – keeping 3 feet of space between members when possible. Work with ushers to seat individuals at every other pew.</p> <p><i>For the Member</i></p> <p>If you are sick, stay home.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remember to cover your cough and wash your hands frequently to prevent the spread of germs that make us sick. • If you are sick, contact the office to let them know and to arrange for communion (if available). • Request a written copy of the sermon, tape/CD of the service or access the service via television or the internet. <p>If you do go to church, avoid close contact with other members, and refrain from acts such as the sign of peace and receiving/distributing communion.</p>

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Sign of Peace	<p>Germs can spread easily from person-to-person, especially by shaking hands and hugging. Instead of hugging or shaking hands to offer the sign of peace to fellow members, consider bowing, nodding or other signs that do not involve person-to-person contact.</p> <p>Individuals may choose to use sanitizer after contact (during the sign of peace). Encourage congregation to do so ...“it’s ok to use hand sanitizer in church”</p>
Food/Fellowship gatherings (weddings, baptisms, confirmations)	<p>Make hand sanitizer available to people who are serving food or collecting money.</p> <p>Stay at home if you are sick.</p> <p>If you attend a gathering or other activities where food is served, remember to wash your hands frequently before and after eating and after using the bathroom.</p> <p>Some could be put on hold (confirmation, baptisms, etc.) - prioritize gatherings in some way</p> <p>“Healing Services” (services for the ill) – if you still hold these you may consider canceling or heightened awareness of general prevention measures.</p> <p>General Food Safety Reminders: Servers instead of a buffet line, individual servings of snacks</p>
Nurseries/Youth Activities	<p>Follow procedures prescribed to other daycare centers. Information will be provided by local health department.</p> <p>Do not create a daycare if schools and daycares have been closed.</p> <p>Communication with Sunday School Administration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General prevention • Wash hands • Cover Cough • Exclude children who are ill, if possible • Prepare message for the families from the church regarding closure and prevention
Funeral	<p>There may be an increased demand for funeral services. Consider partnering with other churches or organizations in your community to ease this demand.</p> <p>Funeral Services may be limited to immediate families and opportunities may not exist for layouts or other remembrance services.</p> <p>Funeral staff may be depleted.</p> <p>In lieu of chapel (small, crowded space) conduct service outside at burial site (implications for cemetery).</p> <p>Hold longer visitation period to spread out the number of people at one time.</p> <p>Funeral now (limited, only immediate family), memorial later.</p>
Distribution of food/water/other essential services	<p>Follow local health department recommendations for social distancing, and personal protective equipment.</p> <p>Consider dropping off packages in driveways or on doorsteps – methods that prevent person-to-person contact.</p>