



COVID-19

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE INFORMATION FOR FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

As COVID-19 becomes more widespread across the nation, we wanted to share information with Faith-Based Organizations regarding how to help prevent the spread of this disease to others. If you are involved in a faith-based or other congregation of 10 or more, you can help assist the community respond to COVID-19 by following these recommendations:

AVOID SHAKING HANDS: Although many of us see shaking hands as a sign of respect, it is alright to avoid shaking hands during the cold/COVID-19 season. Consider bumping elbows, or just saying, “Hi” instead of shaking hands.

STAY CALM AND WASH YOUR HANDS: Many diseases are spread through unwashed hands. By frequently hand washing with soap and water while counting to 20, can help prevent the spread of many diseases. Congregations should make sure to have soap available at each sink. In other common areas, consider having hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol available for congregants to use.

CLEAN: Churches should wipe down and disinfect common areas between services. Currently, the lifespan of COVID-19 on hard surfaces is unknown, it could be a few hours or a few days. It will greatly help the health of your congregation if you take extra precautions.

STAY HOME: If congregation members feel sick or are sick, please encourage them to stay home. By going to church, they risk exposing the rest of the congregation to the same disease they have. Instead of attending church, consider attending church through a live stream session or by having a friend place their phone on speakerphone.

POSTPONE SERVICES: Congregation leaders, if your congregation has many who are sick, consider postponing services for everyone to recover. This will not only help members feel alright with staying home, but it will protect the elderly who might be most vulnerable to diseases like COVID-19. Younger people have carried COVID-19 without knowing they were sick, and by postponing services during infectious times, others will be protected. If your church is asked to stay home, leaders could conduct services over a free live streaming service like YouTube or Facebook live. All you need is an account and a cell phone with a camera to record.

HELP THOSE IN NEED: If someone in your congregation becomes ill, call them to make sure they don't need any supplies (especially if they live alone). Basic needs like food, hygiene items, and get-well cards can be brought to someone who is ill. Make arrangements to leave items on the porch, then call the sick person to have them pick up the items. This way, you will avoid contracting their illness by touching the same door handles they might have touched.

We will continue to work hard to keep everyone informed and updated with current information. If you have any questions or would like more information, please feel free to call Campbell County Public Health (307 682-7275). We also recommend familiarizing yourself with the CDC website cdc.gov/coronavirus and the Wyoming Department of Health website health.wyo.gov/publichealth.



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