



Frequently Asked Questions About COVID-19/Coronavirus with Answers for the Faith Community

Where can we get up-to-date information on the status of COVID-19/coronavirus?

- www.coronavirus.ohio.gov
- www.cdc.gov

Is any of the information offered in Spanish?

- Yes, halfway down this page is a link for information in Spanish: www.coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/home/resources/how-you-can-prevent-and-prepare

How often should we expect to receive updates from Governor DeWine and/or the Ohio Department of Health?

- Daily at 2:00 pm, www.ohiocannel.org will be live-streaming a press conference with Governor DeWine and Health Director Dr. Acton.

What options are available for remote worship services?

- Video conferencing with Zoom or Google – Example use: Ministry leadership meetings
- Live or recorded video streaming on your website – Example use: Worship services
- Facebook Live – Example use: Midweek bible study teaching
- Conference Calls – Example use: Intercessory prayer times

Why would the Governor exempt churches from the large gathering ban?

- Restricting First Amendment rights to the free exercise of religion and free speech is a last resort for most government authorities, including the Governor. They prefer to respect the liberty of religious organizations to respond according to their faith beliefs. Furthermore, the responsible government authorities could be burdened in court with proving that the ban on religious gatherings was not based on their content. That said, in a declared state of emergency, the government does have the authority to impose policies that would not normally be permitted, including restricting religious gatherings.

How should we prepare if we are a polling place for the 2020 Primary Election?

- Assess the ability of your church to daily clean and disinfect frequently-touched surfaces such as doorknobs, counters, and bathroom fixtures.
- Contact your County Board of Elections for instructions, assistance and/or changes they may have already made concerning your site as a voting location and/or your poll workers (especially if those assigned to your site are generally elderly).

Should we still host organizations such as AA, NA, OA, and the Red Cross?

- Assess the ability of your church to daily clean and disinfect frequently-touched surfaces such as doorknobs, counters, and bathroom fixtures.
- Communicate with the organization's satellite location coordinator and discuss your mutual needs and expectations for the use of the building.
- Ensure that any agreement for the use of your facility includes adherence to ODH guidelines and restrictions during this state of emergency.



Our church has a daycare; since they are currently exempted, has the state provided guidelines for daycares?

- Governor DeWine signed an executive order easing the teacher/student ratios currently required for daycares and preschools. This regulation loosening will help providers continuously care for students during this time when staffing levels may be low.
- Although daycares and preschools were not included in the school closure order, the Governor urged parents to keep their children out of daycare if able to do so. He also, however, encouraged parents not to use a babysitter over the age of 60, as those individuals are at the highest risk of becoming seriously ill from COVID-19.

We have a café area in our building, can we offer breakfast or lunch for children if we controlled the number being fed within a specified timeframe?

- In response to a request from the DeWine administration, the U.S. Department of Agriculture approved two waiver requests to continue school breakfast and lunch programs during Ohio's K-12 school closures. Schools will be permitted to provide every child under 18 with grab-and-go meals to ensure that no child goes hungry during the school closures. The Ohio Department of Education will also develop a process to give school districts the unprecedented ability to deliver meals to homes.

How do we continue with our regular community feeding programs when public gatherings have been banned?

- Governor DeWine's executive order prohibits mass gatherings that bring together 100 or more people in a single room or a single space at the same time.
- Compliance with the order could look like: offering meals in a grab-and-go boxed style, and ensuring that there are fewer than 100 people in the room at any given point, the area is well sanitized and people are at an arm's-length distance.

How can we care for senior adults and the elderly during this time?

- Call often, even throughout the day
- Enlist them in prayer conference calls or virtual bible studies
- Shop for and delivery their groceries
- Make and deliver meals
- Visit, but only if they do not have any visitation restrictions, and you are healthy and have not been exposed to the virus

What can we collectively do as a faith-based group to serve and meet the needs of our counties, and to help the Governor and state to continue to protect Ohio citizens?

- Join our weekly Faith Friday conference calls.
- CCV and the Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives are coordinating an effort to address this and will invite you to participate shortly.

How can we stay connected and continue to lift each other up in prayer?

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Questions or comments? Contact CCV Church Relations Director
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