

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Announcement

The ongoing spread of the novel coronavirus or COVID-19 will very likely have an impact on our community. Cases have been identified in the vast majority of states, and it has now been classified as a global pandemic – referring to an epidemic that has spread across multiple countries and affecting a large number of people.

There is an abundance of news and rumors about this disease but not all of it is completely accurate. We encourage the Christians to follow the advice and directions from public health authorities such as the CDC (Centers for Disease Control), and state and local health departments. You can obtain information on COVID-19 by going to their websites or by calling hotlines set up to answer questions.

This virus is highly contagious and can be life threatening, in particular to the elderly and those with underlying chronic medical conditions or compromised immune systems. The majority of individuals who test positive for the virus have mild, self-limited symptoms resembling the flu. However, in order to protect the most vulnerable in the congregation, we ask that you or affected family members do not attend church if you experience a fever, muscle aches, cough, or have other flu-like symptoms. At this time there is no specific vaccine for COVID-19, no anti-viral medication available, and supportive care such as staying hydrated and using medication to treat fever has been suggested. The disease can be limited by frequent hand washing with soapy water or by using alcohol-based hand sanitizer. It has been suggested that avoiding multiple close contacts or touching followed by rubbing the nose, mouth and eyes may also help limit disease spread.

Older adults and people who have underlying chronic medical conditions or who are taking medicines that affect the immune system are more likely to have serious complications from the disease. For this reason, public health authorities are recommending that these individuals limit their exposure by avoiding crowds as much as possible and, in some cases, remaining at home.

If the virus begins to spread in our area it could last for an extended period of time. Depending on the severity of the outbreak, public health officials may recommend community actions to reduce exposures to COVID-19. These actions, such as closing schools, limiting travel, and limiting the size of crowds, may be able to slow the spread and reduce the impact of disease.

Again, we want to encourage the Christians to follow the advice of their medical doctor and that provided by public health authorities.