

Coronavirus hotline: 217-239-7877

Email: coronavirus@c-uphd.org

www.c-uphd.org



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Champaign-Urbana Public Health District
www.c-uphd.org

Updated guidance for social/physical distancing: If gatherings are necessary, limit the number of people to 10.

Interim Guidance for Faith Based Organizations

An URGENT request from Julie Pryde, Champaign-Urbana Public Health District Administrator to our Faith-Based Community Leaders:

You are the MOST trusted source of information to your congregations. You have an obligation to protect them and to do what is in their best interest. Remaining open will encourage people to gather and give them a false sense of security. People congregating in churches or any other location is going against public health recommendations, and putting our community and your congregations at risk. People will die as a result of these actions. I cannot impress upon you enough how critical it is for you to lead with knowledge during this public health crisis. The pandemic will continue for months. You have to do things differently. We need you to stop in-person services and to continue daily outreach to your congregation through the phone. Organize a call-tree, a call bank, develop a volunteer team to get resources such as food and medicine to your members over 60 and those with chronic health conditions (drop off delivery). Help link them to resources. It is likely that you have people in your congregations who live with or work with vulnerable populations. Congregating them risks an outbreak within your church and puts others in the community at risk for illness, hospitalization, and death. I am pleading with you to do the right thing and protect your congregations.

General Prevention of COVID-19

- Wash hands frequently with warm water and soap for 20 seconds
- Everyone - staff and patrons- should practice social distancing: people remaining 6 feet apart from each other as much as possible
- Staff experiencing a fever, cough, or shortness of breath should not work
- Avoid touching your face, especially eyes, nose, and mouth, with unwashed hands
- Disinfect "high touch" surfaces frequently with products that have been E.P.A approved.
 - Includes: Door handles, sinks, guest books, pens, phones, etc.
 - Click [here](#) for the CDC's cleaning and disinfecting guidelines
 - Click [here](#) for examples of EPA approved products

Considerations for Faith-Based Organizations:

- Consider offering video/audio of events
- Determine ways to continue providing support services to individuals at increased risk of severe disease (services, meals, checking in) while limiting group settings and exposures.
- Cancel large gatherings (>10 people)
- Consider alternative ways to dispense food at food pantries to avoid large gatherings of people. (See Food Pantry guidance at www.c-uphd.org)

Funeral Considerations

- Consider a webcast service using either a webcasting service or Facebook Live
- Can the family hold a memorial gathering- either in addition to or in lieu of a funeral service- at a later date?