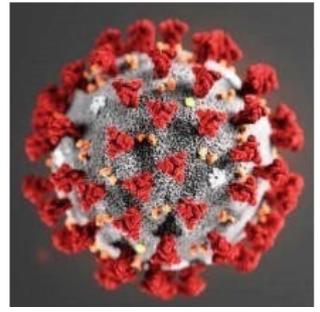


March 19, 2020

Safety Tips & Resources To Help Your Church Stay Informed About Coronavirus (COVID-19)



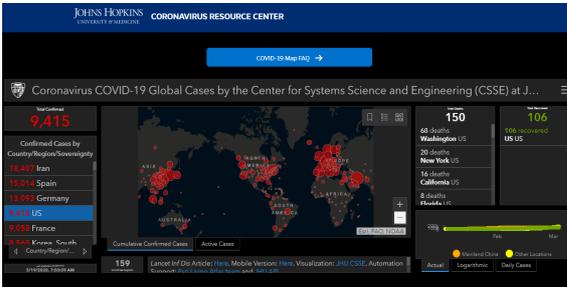
Current Status in the U.S. Today

According to the [Centers for Disease Control](#) (CDC) this outbreak is a respiratory disease caused by a novel (new) coronavirus, it has now been detected in 159 countries internationally, including in the United States. The virus has been named "SARS-CoV-2" and the disease it causes has been called "coronavirus disease 2019." [Click here](#) for a map of the known cases.

How The Virus Spreads, Signs & Symptoms to Watch For:

The virus is thought to spread mainly from [person-to-person](#).

- Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
- Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.
- People are thought to be most contagious when they are most symptomatic.
- Common symptoms include: fever, cough, shortness of breath. These symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure.



10 Tips for Churches

1. Avoid close contact with people who are sick. Encourage those in your congregation (including members, employees, volunteers and vendors) to stay home if they have any symptoms. Many churches record or live stream services for remote viewing online.
2. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
3. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
4. Follow CDC's recommendations for using a facemask.
5. [Clean and disinfect](#) frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipes throughout your church.
6. Eliminate hand to hand transmission or placing a communion wafer directly in the mouth, the persons passing out the elements should wear gloves. Avoid using a common cup.
7. Consider temporarily suspending use of baptismal fonts.
8. Pass the peace by not shaking hands or giving hugs. Consider a greeting like waving, or folding your hands over your heart and then opening them palms out and down.
9. For food service, make sure tongs, spoons, and other utensils are made available so the food is not contaminated and the need for people to use their hands is eliminated.
10. For offerings, consider a central offering box where donations can be placed rather than passing an offering plate from person to person. Alternatively, online giving is a great option that eliminates contact.

Seek out your local health authorities for up to date information in your area.

