# **CORONAVIRUS PREPARATION**

# Press Released: 3/6/2020

We know you may have questions about coronavirus/COVID-19 and how it may affect our church and community. Our church has been in constant contact with the Florida Department of Health and plugged in to the media on local developments. Coronavirus is spread just like the flu, through droplets from sneezing or coughing. It can lead to a respiratory illness (an illness that affects breathing and involves the lungs) called COVID-19. If you have specific questions about you or your family's health, contact your health care provider.

# **Current situation**

- 1) We are operating our church as usual, with normal hours. We are taking proactive steps for the health and well-being of our members and staff—frequently cleaning our auditoriums and common areas. We are also installing more hand sanitizer and soap dispensers in our buildings. At this time, based on guidance from the Florida Department of Health, there is no reason to be scared—just be smart about prevention.
- 2) It is important to talk with your family about using good hygiene—this stops the spread of most illnesses. Follow the prevention steps here, especially:
  - Wash your hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds
  - Don't touch your eyes, nose or mouth without washing your hands first
  - Cough or sneeze into your elbow or sleeve—not your hand
- 3) Stay home if you are sick. This helps stop the spread of any illness, including a cold or flu, and lets you rest and recover. If you have the symptoms of COVID-19, the disease caused by coronavirus—fever, cough and shortness of breath—call your regular doctor and then reach out to the Elders of our church (813) 657-9400.

#### Physical – Our main campus

- Installing hand sanitizer dispensers at every main entrance in the coming days.
- Focusing extra cleaning in areas where disease is most likely to spread as our custodial crews apply the cleaning methods they
  use during flu season.

## Medical – Preventing disease spread

- Increasing messaging to families and staff about core disease prevention and hygiene.
- Preparing our youth staff to explain what's happening and show what steps to take to prevent the spread of any disease.
- Reviewing and stocking up on supplies in our custodial closet.

## **Educational – Ensuring learning continues**

- Exploring options to ensure members have remote access to community if they are out of church for an extended period.
- Preparing our Elders to respond to members where anxiety is high to help member's focus.

\*If a case is detected, some possible steps we may take, guided by the Florida Department of Health, include:

- Having a specific room or group of members stay home or be otherwise isolated.
- Isolation of members within a campus, minimizing exposure to large gatherings.
- Temporary Closure of the Main Campus (this is a last resort).
- Surveys sent into the community to determine relatives and others who may be infected.
- The Florida Department of Health would take over and direct any larger response.