

THE PANDEMIC OUR CONTINUED RESPONSE

Southeaster District
Conversation

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THE BASICS

Isaiah 43 Walking with the Lord

But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel:

“Fear not, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name, you are mine.



COVID-19

- Social distancing, masks and good hygiene limits the spread.
- Promising vaccines and treatments are under development.
- Testing capability/capacity and contact tracing on the upswing.



COVID-19 CASES AND DEATHS

Center for Disease Control and Prevention reports
7,168,077 (2.17% of pop) cases in the USA and
205,372 (0.06% of pop) deaths *updated 9/30/20.*

*Note- the USA population is approximately
331,000,000.*



COVID-19 VACCINE

- Vaccine development on fast-track.
 - Goal is to produce a safe and effective vaccine by mid 2021.
 - 43 vaccines in clinical trial testing on humans.
 - 3 vaccines funded for Phase 3 clinical trials.
 - Safety and efficacy continually monitored.
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PUBLIC HEALTH

Isaiah 43 Walking with the Lord

2a When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;

COVID-19 RESPONSE PLAN

- Appoint a COVID-19 coordinator.
- Ask all individuals who enter the church/school/day care to fill out a COVID-19 questionnaire.
- Archive questionnaires in a central location.
- Develop a plan to inform individuals of a confirmed COVID-19 case.
- Develop a plan to provide information to the health department for contact tracing.

COVID-19 REPORTING

- COVID-19 is a nationally notifiable disease.
- Health care providers, labs and others report confirmed cases to their state public health system.
- Health departments investigate confirmed cases.
- Church/school can assist by identifying potential contacts.



COVID-19 CONTACT TRACING

- An effective public health intervention.
 - Identifies, monitors and supports individuals who may have been exposed to COVID-19.
 - Provides support for individuals who lack access to health care.
 - Educates individuals on isolations and quarantine to prevent disease transmission.
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EXPANDING BUILDING USE

Isaiah 43 Walking with the Lord

2^b when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

EXTERNAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Comply with state governor executive orders.
- Consider the local area trajectory of confirmed COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths.
- Track local school and government on-site operations.
- Prepare to shut down to meet federal, state or local guidance.

PREPARING

- Bathe the planning process in prayer.
- Involve a team of leaders in the decision-making process.
- Assess the capacity for staff and volunteers to safely welcome additional groups into the building.
- Require all visitors, staff and attendees adhere to COVID-19 protocols.

PREPARING

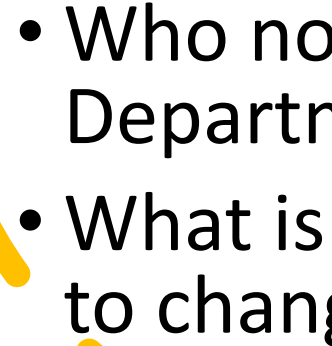
- Make reopening to groups scalable. Start small perhaps with a few test groups.
- Ensure a robust cleaning plan is in place.
- Ensure meeting space allows for social distancing.
- Limit length of meetings to lessen exposure time to others.

PREPARING

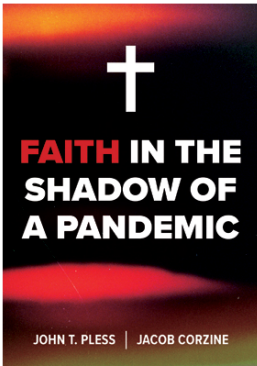
- Provide training to each group leader on COVID-19 safety processes.
- Request attendees fill out COVID-19 questionnaires.
- Ensure that COVID-19 safety signage is posted in meeting spaces.



INTERNAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Who is responsible for archiving required COVID-19 questionnaires?
 - How are confirmed COVID-19 cases among on-site meeting or worship attendees reported?
 - Who notifies other attendees or coordinates with the Health Department when a positive COVID-19 test is reported?
 - What is the plan for communicating risks and response plans to changing health conditions?
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RESOURCES



Faith in the Shadow of a Pandemic by John T. Pless and Jacob Corzine Available at CPH.org

- State and Local Public Health Departments
- FREE Signs to download and print
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/print-resources.html?Sort=Date%3A%3Adesc>



DISCUSSION

Isaiah 43 Walking with the Lord

*³For I am the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Share successes and best practices from your church/school/daycare.
- Provide suggestions for recruiting and training volunteers to assist with groups returning to the building.
- A person who spent time in our facility tests positive for COVID-19. How do we respond?

Thank you! Nancy Boriack nancy.boriack@verizon.net