Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) for Global Faith and Community Leaders

cdc.gov/coronavirus
STEP ONE:
Know the facts to help you and your community stay safe!
What is COVID-19?

- COVID-19 is a new disease, caused by a novel (or new) coronavirus that has not previously been seen in humans.

- A novel coronavirus is a new coronavirus that has not been previously identified.

- The virus causing coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), is not the same as the coronaviruses that commonly circulate among humans and cause mild illness, like the common cold.
COVID-19: How It Spreads

- The virus is thought to spread mainly from person to person.
  - Between people who are in close contact with one another (within 1-2 meters)
  - Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes
- These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.
- It may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes.
Symptoms of COVID-19

Symptoms of COVID-19 may include:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

It can take anywhere from 2 to 14 days for symptoms to appear.
Potential Complications of COVID-19

- COVID-19 can range from a mild to severe illness.
- Severe cases of COVID-19 may lead to complications such as pneumonia.
- COVID-19 can lead to death among people who experience severe illness and complications.
People at high risk of severe illness from COVID-19

People of all ages with underlying medical conditions, particularly if not well controlled, including people who have:

- Chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma
- Serious heart conditions
- Immunocompromised immune systems
- Severe obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 40 or higher)
- Diabetes
- Chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis
- Liver disease
STEP TWO: Use your voice to change the course of COVID-19, by using on-line, digital, virtual, radio and other media options to reach congregations and communities with important prevention messages.
Maintain social distancing which means physical distancing, to help prevent COVID-19

- Keep space between yourself and others
- This can include:
  - **Personal protective measures**
    - Stay 2 meters away from people in public
    - Stay home if you have been exposed to someone with COVID-19
    - Stay home if you feel sick
  - **Community measures**
    - Postpone or cancel gatherings
    - Dismiss schools, child care
    - Encourage people to work from home, if possible
Share Messages on How to Prevent COVID-19

Maintain social distance yourself and be sure to wash your hands; sacred writings can be used to support prevention messages for faith communities

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
  - If soap and water are not available, you can use an alcohol-based hand rub with at least 60% alcohol
  - If neither are available, use a chlorine based solution (bleach and water)
- Do not touch your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
MAKE A HANDWASHING SOLUTION

Remember, only use chlorine-based hand washing solutions when soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub are not available.

Making handwashing solution from 5% liquid bleach

1. Mix 14 tablespoons of 5% bleach into 20 liters of water every day. Stir well. Label bucket for handwashing only / non-potable MILD 0.05%.

2. Use the MILD chlorine water to wash hands. Make new MILD chlorine water every day.

Making handwashing solution from HTH chlorine powder

1. Mix 1 tablespoon of HTH chlorine powder into 20 liters of water every day. Stir well. Label bucket MILD 0.05%.

2. Stir well and wait 30 minutes.

3. Use the MILD chlorine water to wash hands.

Do NOT drink chlorine water. Do NOT put chlorine water in mouth or eyes.

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Educate the Community on how to Prevent COVID-19

Use on-line, virtual, digital, and media options to maintain connection and continue religious practices. They can also be used to educate congregations and communities on behaviors that help prevent COVID-19.

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw it away.
- Wear cloth non-medical face coverings (double layer) in public settings, especially in areas of significant community-based transmission.
- Follow government guidance about avoiding mass gatherings, including faith-based religious services.
Instructions for Making a No-Sew Cloth Non-medical Face Covering

1. Cut along the lines to create a 7-8 inch band.

2. Cut out a 6-7 inch strip and cut the tie strings.

3. Tie strings around the neck, then over the top of the head.
Educate the community on what persons should do if they have symptoms of COVID-19

- Stay home and contact a healthcare provider if possible.
  - Most people recover at home without medical care.
- Monitor your symptoms and call a healthcare provider if you have trouble breathing.
- Stay away from people and in your own ‘sick room’ if possible.
  - Keep your distance and wear a cloth face covering if you must be around other people.
- Wash your hands often.
- Don’t share personal household items.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

- There is no specific treatment and no vaccine yet, so doctors recommend rest and medicine for fever (like paracetamol).
What You Should Do (Summary)
STEP THREE:
Raise your voice to change the course of violence and abuse of children in your community!
What Should You Do if You Are Sick with COVID-19?

▪ Stay home. – Most people recover at home without medical care.
▪ Stay away from people as much as possible. – Keep your distance and cover your coughs and sneezes.
▪ Wash your hands often.
▪ Don’t share personal household items.
▪ Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
▪ Monitor your symptoms for trouble breathing.

▪ There is no treatment and no vaccine yet, so doctors recommend rest and medicine for fever (like Tylenol).

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Increases in domestic violence reported in Wuhan, China are also occurring elsewhere around the world. The UN Secretary General reported a “horrifying global surge in domestic violence linked to COVID-19, noting “for many women and girls, the threat looms largest where they should be safest. In their own homes.”


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Domestic Violence Cases Surge During COVID-19 Epidemic

Faith and Community Leaders Can Use their Influence and Trust to Help Keep Children in their Communities Safe

- Advocate governments for child protection and gender-based violence services to be considered “essential” and remain open during lockdown
- Keep an updated list (e.g. contact information, opening hours) of all local Gender-Based Violence/Child Protection services and national Helplines that are functional and can provide assistance for children who are victims of abuse
- Stay in touch with families and children by phone, WhatsApp, and SMS during lockdowns, social distancing orders, etc., as isolation may make them more vulnerable to family conflict
- If someone needs help, refer them to appropriate services right away
Thank You!

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.