

CANADA

SPECIAL EDITION #1 | March 2020



A MESSAGE FROM OUR NATIONAL DIRECTOR

Out of an abundance of caution, I feel it necessary to add to the existing warning and directives issued by government officials and medical experts. Please exercise extreme caution as we navigate this crisis together.

COVID-19 Tips: Prepare To Deal With The Virus in Your Local Church

Today, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared Covid-19 a pandemic. With diagnosed cases rising across Canada (103 cases), we have a responsibility to be prepared to deal with the virus in our local churches. **We do pray for God's protection on our people and our communities.** We also need to take some simple steps to limit the risk, especially for the most vulnerable among us.

What is Covid-19?

Novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is a lung (respiratory) illness.

What are the Symptoms?

Symptoms have included:

- fever
- cough
- difficulty breathing
- pneumonia in both lungs

How is it spread?

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.

These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.

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Some Practical Ways Local Churches Can Limit The Risks:

- Place hand sanitizing stations at the main entrances of your building and sanctuary
- Consider putting anti-bacterial soaps in the restrooms
- Remind folks to wash their hands
- Remind folks to cough and sneeze in their elbow
- Avoiding shaking hands
- Discouraging folks from sharing food or drinks
- Encourage folks to increase social distance between each other (ideally 2 metres)
- Eliminate self-serve buffet style eating at gatherings
- Encouraging those who are ill and those with high-risk medical conditions not to attend worship until they are well
- Consider live-streaming your worship service for those who are ill or high risk.

