



NORTHEASTERN CONFERENCE

Office of the President

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MEMORANDUM

To: Northeastern Conference Churches
From: Daniel Honore, President
Re: COVID19 (Coronavirus)
Date: March 6, 2020

We continue to monitor health concerns over the spread of Coronavirus within the territory of the Northeastern Conference. As of today 22 cases have been confirmed in the State of New York with additional cases reported in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island. We have received a number of inquiries asking what precautionary steps our churches can take to protect their congregations. We recommend the following preventive measures:

Avoid Handshakes: During the epidemic, churches should avoid activities which promote handshaking. This includes having members and visitors greet each other during the welcome segment, or platform participants shaking hands at the door following the services. Greeters and ushers should also avoid handshakes when receiving worshipers.

Sanitize: We encourage all churches to have an abundant supply of hand sanitizer and sanitizing stations throughout common areas of the premises. Congregants should sanitize their hands before entering the Sanctuary. Churches should double their efforts to sanitize common surface areas and restrooms ensuring an adequate stock of soap and paper towels during all services.

Be Considerate: Members exhibiting any sign of illness, including fever and cold or flu-like symptoms should remain home and stream services from home.

Wear Gloves: We recommend that officiants whose functions require person to person contact wear gloves to protect themselves. This includes ushers handing out bulletins or deacons collecting the offering or even treasury staff handling currency from the offertory.

Use Common Sense: Please follow the directives and briefings of public health officials on the best ways to avoid contracting or spreading Coronavirus. We are attaching fact sheets from the Centers for Disease Control, Adventist Risk Management, and Northeastern Conference Health Ministries and the World Health Organization to help our members to be better educated on the matter.

We pray that the Lord will watch over His people and keep us safe during these challenging times.