

Ohio Conference of Seventh-day Adventists



OHIO CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

[Dayton, OH, March 16, 2020 – For Immediate Release]

Earlier today, both Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and [President Donald Trump](#) issued new coronavirus recommendations to help control the rapid spread of this disease.

Effective immediately, the Ohio Conference recommends the following:

- Suspend meetings or gatherings of 10 (ten) or more people in one room or location
- Avoid nonessential travel for pastors and staff, within and outside the state
- Postponement or cancelation of conference events and activities through May 31
- Begin the migration of your worship service, meetings and community online

“We care about the safety of our people and our communities,” was the sentiment shared by conference administration and department directors during their meeting the afternoon of March 16.

Conference leaders continue to monitor this evolving situation closely. Recognizing the issue of daycare will likely be revisited this week by Governor DeWine, the Ohio Conference strongly recommends parents who have the ability to take their child out this setting should do so. When the State of Ohio mandates the closure of daycares, early child education centers, and learning centers, Ohio Conference facilities will close as well.

Every one of us plays an important role in helping to slow the spread of COVID-19 by limiting our movements. A free [coronavirus simulator](#) is available online which illustrates the impact our unregulated social interactions have in the spread of viruses as compared to when we practice “social distancing.” The results are startling.

As our conference continues this journey together, we solicit your prayers. We understand church and worship may appear different in the coming weeks. Worship is a way of life and has not been canceled. Ministry does not stop because we cannot worship together in a building. **Ministry can and will continue because of you.** John 16:33 says, “I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

Additional resources, continued updates and recommendations will be released through our e-newsletter (*Faithpoints*), direct emails to pastors and lay leaders, conference social media platforms, and our dedicated web page : <http://www.ohioadventist.org/virus>.

About the Ohio Conference and Seventh-day Adventists

Organized in 1861, the Ohio Conference was among the first Seventh-day Adventist local conferences established. Today it is a network of 100 diverse congregations, 11 schools, one medical college, and 12,000 members.

As one of eight conferences within the Columbia Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, the Ohio Conference is known for its pioneering outreach initiatives and commitment to being a Christ-centered, transforming presence in the community.

Among the historic institutions birthed in Ohio were Worthington Foods (which later merged with the Kellogg Corporation), Harding Hospital (now part of the Ohio State University Medical Center), and Kettering Medical Center (now part of Kettering Health Network, a health care ministry of eight hospitals and 120 outpatient facilities).

The Ohio Conference is part of a larger, worldwide fellowship of more than 20 million believers who strive daily to develop a closer relationship with Jesus Christ, to become more like Him, and to serve others as He did. The vision and mission for Ohio includes prayer, growing healthy churches, and helping others realize the hope found in experiencing a personal relationship with a living God and loving Savior, and to nurture them in preparation for His soon return.

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For more information about this topic or about the Ohio Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, please email Heidi A. Shoemaker, Communication Director, at hshoemaker@ohioadventist.org or 937.853.8468.