



SEARCH

MAR 3
2020

Covid-19 (Coronavirus) Update & Response

Covid-19 | by Pastor Adam Sinnett

PASTORAL NOTE

Downtown Cornerstone,

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble (**Ps. 46:1**)—whether spiritual, financial, emotional, relational, or physical. This is crucial to keep at the forefront of our hearts amidst the unfolding outbreak of the Covid-19 Coronavirus in our area. Our God reigns and nothing happens outside his loving, wise, and good sovereign reach—even disease and death (**Dt. 32:39; 1 Sam. 2:6; Job 1:20-21; Ja. 4:13-16**). **value: comfort, peace**

Cultivating a Godward perspective grounds our hope and gives us confident poise as we seek to be wise (**Ja. 1:5-6; Mt. 10:16**) amidst a world subjected to futility, longing to be set free from its corruption (**Rom. 8:20**). Therefore, we will not fear (**Isa. 41:10**). This is not the first of its kind, nor

value: wisdom, no fear, finite

will it be the last (e.g. H1N1/Swine flu, Avian flu, Ebola, MERS, SARS) until the Lord ushers in the new heaven and the new earth (**Rev. 21:1-4**).

value: wisdom, prudence

But, until then, we must find the **wisest, most prudential path forward** when faced with a world gone awry. Therefore, the **elders met** last night to consider how to best **navigate this season together**. While circumstances change daily, here is our current plan:

source: leaders

tone: process, finite

#1 PRAY:

Any reminder of our weakness (**2 Cor. 12:9**) and brevity of life (**Ja. 4:14**), is good for our souls (**Ps. 119:67,71**). It reminds us that we are not our own (**1 Cor. 6:19**). It reminds us that our lives are found in Him (**Phil. 3:9**). It reminds us where our true and lasting treasure is found (**Phil. 1:21; Mt. 13:44, 45-46**) and to fervently pray for ourselves, and others, with these mega-realities in view.

value: maturity, priorities

#2 GATHERINGS: **tone: encourage, continuity; logistics: gather**

We **encourage you to continue to gather** with the church. At this time, public health agencies are not recommending the general public avoid large group gatherings. Therefore, we are not planning to cancel Sunday gatherings, classes, or communities **unless there is a government directive** to do so.

tone: requirement

#3 SANITATION:

We will be placing **additional foaming disinfectant** stations in our lobbies and other key points throughout the building.

logistics: disinfection

#4 KIDS:

tone: prevention

We will be **taking extra measures** within the Cornerstone Kids classrooms to wipe down hard surfaces (handles, toys, dispensers, etc.) before, during, and after our gatherings.

#5 MEET-AND-GREET:

logistics: (no) handshakes; tone: friendly

We will be altering our meet and greet by adding a **friendly disclaimer that handshakes are not expected**, but love of your neighbor is (**Mk. 12:31**).

#6 COMMUNION:

We will be providing an **additional communion option**, for those **uncomfortable sharing in the common** bread and cup.

tone: accommodation; logistics: communion+

#7 SIGNAGE:

source: CDC

The CDC states that remaining home while sick and thoroughly washing your hands are the best preventative measures we can take. Therefore, we will be **posting additional signage as reminders** of this fact at disinfectant stations, bathrooms, and Kids ministry.

logistics: inform

#8 CANCELLATIONS:

value: awareness

Depending on the progress of the virus, we may need to cancel, or reduce, certain elements of our gathering(s) and/or ages we can offer for Cornerstone Kids.

#9 CAUTION:

People who are at higher risk of illness may want to consider ways to lower their risk of infection by limiting contact with crowds, including those: (1) over 60 years old, or (2) with underlying health conditions such as heart disease and lung disease, or (3) with weakened immune systems, or (4) pregnant. If you, or a family member, has a cough, fever, or other respiratory difficulties, we **encourage you to refrain from participating** in any church-related activity until you are fever-free for 24 hours.

logistics: personal; tone: encourage/restraint

#10 COVID-19:

If you become sick with the Coronavirus, **please notify** us immediately.

logistics: inform

#11 MONITORING:

We are continuing to monitor the latest news and recommendations released by the CDC, state, and city officials. We will keep you posted as we learn more. If you have **any questions**, please email us at info@downtowncornerstone.org.

tone: available

tone: grief, weary, pain

We **grieve** with those who have lost loved ones to this latest pandemic (**Rom. 12:15**). We are not minimizing that. Living in a world corrupted by sin is **wearying**. The tears and **pain** are real. But, even so, we **do not lose heart** because, “this light and momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison” (**2 Cor. 4:16-18**). **Take heart**, friends, and let’s **press on together** (**Jn. 16:33**).

tone: courage

Yours, in Christ.

Pastor Adam

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- Upcoming Events
- Jobs and Internships

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- Classes
- Community
- Cornerstone Kids
- Pray
- Serve
- Baptism
- Church Membership
- Resources
- Discipleship Training
- Pre-Marital
- Care
- Missions & Church Planting
- Mercy Ministries

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