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How to Talk About the Coronavirus with Your Church

We know that the Coronavirus (COVID-19) has become a worldwide concern and is on the top of everyone's minds. The ARC Lead Team continues to monitor the situation closely. **As of today, the ARC Conference in April is still scheduled as planned.**

We've compiled resources for you to use if the need to talk about the Coronavirus with your church arises. The goal of this messaging is to provide important information without instilling fear. Here are some important things to consider including in your messaging if communicating with your church about the Coronavirus.

Let people know of the actions your church is taking.

- We are dedicated to offering a clean and safe environment.
- Our facilities are cleaned regularly.
- In addition to hand soap available in the bathrooms, we have a supply of alcohol-based hand sanitizers available for use at every service time and location.
- We plan to continue our weekly services but are monitoring the situation and following recommendations from state and local government agencies.

Provide examples of best practices for not spreading germs.

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home if you are not feeling well.
- Cover your mouth and nose with your forearm when coughing and sneezing.
- Wash your hands frequently for at least 20 seconds at a time. Use soap and water when possible.

Share encouragement through scripture.

- Psalm 91:5-7: You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday. A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you.
- Psalm 91:10-11: No evil shall befall you, nor shall any plague come near your dwelling; for He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways.
- Luke 12:25-26: Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life? Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?
- John 14:27: Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.
- John 16:33: I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.
- 2 Timothy 1:7: For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

Check out these examples of how churches have started communicating about the Coronavirus.

- <https://www.newcreation.org.sg/updates/announcements/health-advisory-regarding-the-2019-novel-coronavirus>
- <https://churchome.org>
- <https://www.facebook.com/Kaloschurch/photos/a.1113709062012427/2665205583529426/?type=3&theater>
- <https://mailchi.mp/f00556af36bf/worshipwed-185057?e=1cdbc6e28f>

The news around the Coronavirus is changing rapidly. Always refer to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), state, and local government guidelines for the most up-to-date information.



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