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Public Health Emergency Information – Faith Based Organizations

Before a COVID-19 outbreak occurs in your community: Plan

A COVID-19 outbreak could last for a long time in your community. Depending on the severity of the outbreak, public health officials may recommend community actions designed to help keep people healthy, reduce exposures to COVID-19, and slow the spread of the disease. Local public health officials may make recommendations appropriate to your local situation. Creating a household plan can help protect your health and the health of those you care about in the event of an outbreak of COVID-19 in your community. You should base the details of your household plan on the needs and daily routine of your household members.

WHAT TO KNOW

What is coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)?

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. The virus that causes COVID-19 is a novel coronavirus that was first identified during an investigation into an outbreak in Wuhan, China.

How does COVID-19 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. It may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads.

What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

Patients with COVID-19 have had mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms of fever, cough, shortness of breath.

PREPARE YOUR FAITH BASED ORGANIZATION

Update your emergency operations plan with the help of your local public health department, emergency operations coordinator or planning team, and other relevant partners to include COVID-19 planning.

Identify space that can be used to separate sick people if needed.

Develop an emergency communication plan for distributing timely and accurate information to workers and those you serve.

Identify actions to take if you need to temporarily postpone or cancel events, programs, and services, especially for groups at greater risk such as older adults or people with chronic health conditions.

Promote the practice of everyday preventative actions.

- Frequently wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or use the inside of your elbow.
- Clean frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Stay home when sick.

Provide COVID-19 prevention supplies at your organization (e.g., soap, hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol, tissues, trash baskets, and a couple of disposable facemasks, just in case someone becomes sick during an event).

Engage with stigmatized groups and speak out against negative behaviors to help counter stigma and discrimination.

IF YOU THINK YOU HAVE SYMPTOMS

Call ahead before visiting your doctor or the hospital. If you develop symptoms and have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or if you have recently traveled from an area with widespread or ongoing community spread of COVID-19, call your medical provider for guidance.

See the CDC website for information on areas affected by Coronavirus. The Health Department can also assist with directing you to care.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

**If you think you have symptoms consistent with Coronavirus, please call your medical provider.
New Haven Health Department Emergency Line (203) 946-4949**

**For routine questions/issues, please call the New Haven Health Department Main Number
Telephone (203) 946-6999 Website: <https://www.newhavenct.gov/gov/depts/health/default.htm>
Information on other specific populations can be found on the New Haven Health Department website**

CDC – Coronavirus Disease 2019

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/index.html>

Connecticut Department of Public Health

<https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Public-Health-Preparedness/Main-Page/2019-Novel-Coronavirus#Protect>

Yale New Haven Health COVID-19 Call Center (203) 688-1700

CDC – Checklist for Community and Faith Leaders

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/checklist.html#plan>