

March 24, 2020

COVID-19

Frequently Ask Questions (FAQ)

1. *Should in-person worship services be performed during the current state of affairs surrounding the COVID-19?*

On March 16, 2020, Bishop Sally Dyck released communication indicating all in-person worship services are suspended until further notice.

2. *With in-person worship services suspended until further notice, may in-person meetings, Bible studies or even choir practices be held?*

In-person meetings inclusive of hosting Bible studies, choir practices, are highly discouraged.

3. *We have a Food Pantry do we now just shut down due to governmental directives recommending non-assembly of groups of 50, 20, 10 people?*

Food Pantry operations may continue at the Church's discretion. Cautionary steps should be implemented restricting clients from accessing the building premises. In line with scheduled operating hours, the distributed food items may be assembled and placed into plastic bags for clients to retrieve outside of the food pantry premises.

4. *PADS...we cannot turn away clients!*

PADS operations may continue at the Church's discretion. Cautionary steps should be performed restricting clients from assembling in groups of 10 or more persons in line with the recommended "six (6) feet" safe distance between persons.

5. *We are scheduled to host PADS in the coming days; at the end of each session, we have been advised to conduct deep cleaning of the area used to host clients. Is deep cleaning cost covered under insurance?*

No, any cost to perform deep cleaning stemming from COVID-19 is not covered.

6. *Can PADS continue to operate in DuPage County?*

New

Due to the Coronavirus outbreak and concern for the health and safety of clients, volunteers, and congregations, all interim (overnight) Housing shelter sites are closed, beginning Saturday, March 21, 2020.

Please refer to the following link for additional information.

<https://dupagepads.org/covid-19/>

7. *A person participating in PADS and/or visiting the Food Pantry shows signs of COVID-19...what should be done?*

Update

If you identify any client with severe symptoms, notify your public health department and arrange for the client to receive immediate medical care. If this is a client with suspected COVID-19, notify the transfer team and medical facility before transfer.

Additional information is available via review of the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) website.

<http://www.dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/diseases-and-conditions/diseases-a-z-list/coronavirus/preventing-spread-communities/homeless-shelters>

Please notify your District Superintendent and Dwayne Jackson at 312.783.5945, or via email at djackson@umcnic.org of any incident.

8. *The Pastor was call to perform ministry services at a member's residence. Should the Pastor go to the member's residence and perform ministry services?*

No, ministry services are not recommended be performed at member's residence.

Conversely, should the Pastor be contacted to perform ministry services at a hospital, long term nursing facility, and/or assisted living facility, precautionary medical attire should be obtained from the facility and worn.

9. *A member's surviving family is requesting funeral services be held at the Church, should the Church host funeral services?*

Funeral services normally entail persons assembling in groups thereby exposing persons to an unhealthy environment. Hosting funeral services during the current state of affairs is strongly discouraged.

10. *Does the Conference maintain Business Interruption insurance to cover loss revenue streams that include titles, offerings, employee wages, preschool/daycare, camps usage/enrollment, etc.?*

Update

The Conference does not maintain Business Interruption insurance for financial losses relating to communicable diseases such as COVID-19 as the commercial insurance marketplace does not offer this coverage extension.

Each church should maintain detail accounting records documenting loss revenue and/or cost incurred stemming from COVID-19, as follows:

- Each month starting January 2020 through August 2020
- Breakout loss revenue by church / ministry / preschool / daycare / camp
- Maintain yearend financial statements for 2018 & 2019

What do we do with the financial data?

Hold onto the financial data/records until at such time requested by the Conference.

11. *A Church employee states they contracted COVID-19 and wants to file a Workers' Compensation claim.*

Assemble the employee's information, circumstances wherein the exposure to COVID-19 was contracted, the name, and address of medical providers and dates of treatment.

The information should be assembled and reported to Hartford Insurance at 800.327.3636; policy #: 83-WEBT-9716.

Hartford Insurance will initiate investigation and adjudicate the claim.

SOURCES FOR HELPFUL AND ACCURATE INFORMATION

PLEASE COPY & PASTE THE LINK INTO YOUR WEB BROWSER FOR ACCESS

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

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

White House - 15 Days to Slow the Spread

https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/03.16.20_coronavirus-guidance_8.5x11_315PM.pdf

CDC Guidance for Community and Faith-Based Organizations

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

Symptoms

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

Illinois Department of Health

<http://www.dph.illinois.gov>

<http://www.dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/diseases-and-conditions/diseases-a-z-list/coronavirus/preventing-spread-communities/homeless-shelters>

Guidance for Community and Faith-based Organizations

<https://www.umcnic.org/media/files/Bishop/COVID-19%20Guidance%20for%20Community-%20and%20Faith-based%20Organizations%2002.28.2020.pdf>

Faith-Based Community Preparedness Checklist

<https://www.umcnic.org/media/files/coronavirus/faithbasedcommunitychecklist.pdf>

How the Rural Church Can Help During COVID-19

<https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/10178/how-the-rural-church-can-help-during-covid-19>

World Health Organization (WHO)

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

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Coronavirus Information for Individuals and Organizations

<https://www.phly.com/rms/blog/Coronavirus.aspx>

Keeping your workplace safe

<https://www.umcnic.org/media/files/coronavirus/workplace-school-and-home-guidance.pdf>

OSHA quick reference card

<https://www.umcnic.org/media/files/coronavirus/Corona%20OSHA%20Card2.pdf>

What to do if you're sick

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/COVID19-symptoms.pdf>

Stop the Spread of Germs poster

English

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/stop-the-spread-of-germs.pdf>

Spanish

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/stop-the-spread-of-germs-sp.pdf>

JOURNEYS (PADs) | The Road Home and COVID-19

<https://www.journeystheroadhome.org/covid-19.html>

The FAQs will routinely be updated as questions are received and addressed.

The information listed herein is available on the NICUMC webpage as follows:

<https://www.umcnic.org/riskmanagement>

Please contact Dwayne Jackson at 312.783.5945 or via email (djackson@umcnic.org), should questions arise not addressed herein require attention.