

COVID-19 Recommendations for Faith-Based Organizations

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The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) offers the following guidance to faith-based organizations and churches in relation to novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

Use every day safeguards to reduce the risk of all viruses, including COVID-19.

- Wash your hands frequently.
- Stay home if you are ill.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue.

In addition to these every day prevention measures consider:

- Discontinuing handshakes or hugs. Greet each other verbally and/or in another manner, such as a bow or fist bump.
- Clergy and servers should wash their hands before administering communion. If soap and water is not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Communicants should be encouraged to use their own hand sanitizers before communion.
- The use of common cup during communion is discouraged; however, if it is used, the clergy or server should be especially attentive to wiping and turning the cup with every communicant.
 - When using individual cups for communion, ensure the individual filling the cups washes their hands with soap and water before doing so.

Perform routine environmental cleaning.

- Routinely clean frequently touched surfaces (e.g., doorknobs, light switches, countertops, pews) with the cleaners typically used. Use all cleaning products according to the directions on the label.

Encourage ill members to stay home.

- Consider alternatives to in-person worship, including web streaming and/or podcasts.