Coronavirus Disease 2019

COVID-19 Checklist for Faith-Based and Community Organizations

Top Things You Can Do to Protect Against COVID-19

Ohio Department of Health Director Amy Acton, M.D., MPH strongly recommends that all faith-based and community organizations take the following actions:

- Hold remote/online meetings for regular gatherings, including weekly services. If any in-person services must be held, implement practices to keep people 6 feet apart and refrain from practices that involve the sharing of common items or close contact with other individuals.

- Postpone or cancel events, programs, and services as much as possible.

- Engage other community leaders and establish a process to help with grocery delivery and other household tasks for members at high-risk of complications from COVID-19. Establish programs to reduce feelings of isolation and loneliness, especially among people who live alone.

- Share messages about COVID-19 only from credible sources.

- Engage with stigmatized groups and speak out against negative behaviors to help counter discrimination against people who are sick. Also watch out for potential language, cultural, and disability barriers when communicating with members or congregants.

- Continue to offer needed social services, using practices that reduce the risk of transmitting COVID-19. Avoid providing services in group gatherings.

- Ramp up environmental cleaning. Ensure that employees and volunteers remain at least 6 feet apart.

For additional information, visit coronavirus.ohio.gov.

For answers to your COVID-19 questions, call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634).

If you or a loved one are experiencing anxiety related to the coronavirus pandemic, help is available. Call the Disaster Distress Helpline at 1-800-985-5990 (1-800-846-8517 TTY); connect with a trained counselor through the Ohio Crisis Text

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Line by texting the keyword “4HOPE” to 741 741; or call the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services help line at 1-877-275-6364 to find resources in your community.