



Davie County Health and Human Services

Davie Center for Violence Prevention | Public Health | Senior Services | Social Services | Veterans Services

210-228 Hospital Street | Mocksville, NC 27028

Suzanne Wright MPH, Director

Community Faith Leader,

Thank you for the work that you do for our community. I am sure that COVID-19 has altered your habits and routines, as it has for all of us. We appreciate changes that you have already made to ensure the health and safety of your church members. Davie County Health and Human Services would like to provide additional guidance to help you protect members of your church family and members of our community. Please know that we support religious rights and appreciate all that you are doing to help during this public health crisis.

While details about cases are protected by law, we can say that several cases in our community have been linked to church-related functions. Our goal is to work with the faith community to ensure precautions are implemented to keep everyone safe.

Below are a few recommendations that we urge you to implement as soon as possible (or immediately if you are able to do so) for the health and safety of your congregations.

As you know, Executive Order 121 has prohibited gatherings of 10 people or more. This applies whether inside or outside. That means no more than 10 people can physically gather in a park, parking lot, fellowship hall, or anywhere else.

There have been many questions about drive-in church services. If people are confined to their vehicles and you are administering pastoral care through a car window, or talking to someone, please ensure that you do not touch the same surfaces. Some control measures to consider would be for your ushers to use gloves while touching communion trays and/or collection plates and not allow members to touch the communion trays or collection plates. Passing a tray or collection plate into a car that someone else will then touch could transmit the virus to others. If there are options for providing communion through individual sealed servings, it would be safer to provide this option. It is important to note that gloves should be used when receiving and distributing these sealed items to church members. In the same line of thought and prevention, passing money from one person to another could also transmit the virus to others. If money is being exchanged, you should wear a different pair of gloves and then wash your hands thoroughly. Money should sit untouched for at least three days (72 hours) before processing it.

Please also refrain from passing books and paper items or anything else from one person to another as you can pass the virus from surfaces of inanimate objects. For the protection of your staff, we also encourage you to clean door handles, music equipment, microphones, and other frequently touched items after each use.

During this phase of contagion, we ask that you not hold any potlucks or share meals where persons may congregate. Many people may have the virus without exhibiting symptoms, so the risk of spreading the virus can put peoples' lives at stake. If you provide meals to congregants, community members, elderly members of our community, or anyone else, please do all possible to protect yourselves and them. Wear gloves when handling food, wash your hands before and after, do not touch your face, clean frequently touched surfaces often, and keep 6 feet between yourself and others. Those who are immunocompromised or 65+ years of age are at a higher risk for severe COVID-19. Please take all possible preventative actions to avoid unintentionally putting individuals at risk.

DavieCountyNC.gov  



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If you haven't already done so, we recommend that transport in church vans be halted to safely maintain social distancing requirements. Trips or gatherings requiring bus or van travel should be reconsidered for the protection of your church members right now. Again, we support all that you are doing for your congregations during these difficult times and we have the health and safety of your congregation in mind.

For those running food pantries or clothing closets, please take preventative measures and hand off clothes or food to those you serve by taking it outside and setting it down, allowing the other person to then pick it up. An alternative is placing it directly in someone's trunk or car for them. Find ways to stay at least 6 feet away from anyone else. Wear gloves or wash your hands thoroughly before and after, as COVID-19 can be active on surfaces for up to 72 hours (3 days).

This is a hard time for everyone, and I know that dealing with a loss in your church family or community can make it even more difficult. Due to guidance received from NCDHHS, funerals are limited to 50 people and social distancing requirements of being at least 6 feet apart from each person should be encouraged at all times.

We understand that calling people to check-in isn't the same as administering pastoral care in person, but it can be the difference in someone's health. We are here for you to help answer questions, provide guidance based on the actions taken by NCDHHS, and offer our support whenever possible.

Please know that we support your efforts to continue to minister to your congregations. All of us are having to do our work very differently until we get through this epidemic. Our actions now affect the entire community's health. To flatten the curve of this virus we must take action. These actions will determine the extent to which this virus impacts our community. We can be that difference.

Thank you again for all that you do for this community. As always, feel free to reach out to Davie County Health and Human Services for any questions you may have at: (336)753-6550, DavieCountyNC.gov/96/Health-Department, or at facebook.com/DavieHD.