

Thursday, March 12, 2020 1:48 PM



New Life Community:

We want to provide an update regarding the concerns surrounding COVID-19 (coronavirus) as the safety of NLC families is our priority.

There is a known case of COVID-19 within a family in our church. Please read the following details carefully:

- The person who tested positive for COVID-19 became ill on Feb. 28 following travel abroad and is mostly recovered and doing fine now.
- The person self-quarantined to their basement and there was minimal exposure to the immediate family members. Those family members are not exhibiting any symptoms and are being monitored by the MN Dept. of Health (MDH).
- Those family members attended an NLC life group on March 1 and have not attended NLC services since their minimal exposure on Feb. 28. Those who have been directly impacted are now aware.
- Members of that life group who had indirect exposure to the minimally exposed family members attended the NLC service on Sunday, March 8.

Important information we want you to know:

- There has been no known direct contact at NLC with anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19. The status based on these events is considered minimal risk of exposure for the NLC community; however, out of an abundance of caution, we are notifying you of the events especially in consideration of those with compromised immune systems.
- We understand the need for caution in gatherings at this time. We will follow guidelines of local officials on whether to cancel our gatherings in the future. At this time we will meet corporately as planned. If you are not present at Sunday services, you can [join us on our livestream](#).
- We will avoid physical contact with one another when we gather (e.g. shaking hands, hugging, etc.).
- Work with your small group leaders to determine the best course of action for your individual group meetings.

In addition, this information was sent out to New Life Academy families and is also pertinent to New Life Church attendees:

We continue to stay aware of the latest information from public health professionals from World Health Organization (WHO), Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and the MDH to ensure we are aware of the most recent updates on COVID-19. The health and safety of our families is our priority. While the total number of coronavirus cases in the United States remains relatively small, experts expect this number to grow as testing increases and more individuals seek care.

Currently, the key recommendations from public health agencies to prevent the spread of coronavirus, flu and respiratory illnesses are regular, thorough hand washing and that symptomatic individuals remain home rather than going to school or public places. New Life Academy has implemented the following to increase awareness and protect our school community while on campus:

- We have increased the frequency of sanitizing touched surfaces, doorknobs, and banisters.
- We are ensuring that there is soap in all dispensers and encouraging everyone about the importance of hand washing.
- During Spring Break, we will be doing a deeper disinfecting procedure that will utilize a broad-spectrum fogger that will sanitize hard and soft surfaces as well as hard to reach places.

What can you do to help prevent the spread of flu, colds, and viruses? The CDC recommends following these preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.

The CDC and MDH update the public as soon as new information is available on their websites. Please use these sources to ensure you have the latest and most accurate information. For those who are traveling over spring break, please review recommendations related to travels and COVID-19.

Any further communication needed about COVID-19 will be sent by separate email.

Pray for God's peace to reign in these unique times. If you have questions, please email office@nlcwoodbury or reply to this email.