

# Steps for Containment of COVID-19 Infection

## Plan for an exposure at church

Because COVID-19 will be with us for the foreseeable future, transmission of this virus could occur during church activities. Therefore, for the safety of the whole congregation, as well as their friends and neighbors, churches should be prepared to assist public health departments to identify and find the contacts of people who discover they are infected.

The first task is to rapidly identify all the contacts to a COVID-19 patient who attended the church. Then, if requested, churches should be prepared to quickly notify these contacts so they can self-quarantine and be evaluated for COVID-19. In this way, even if these contacts were infected, any transmission onward can be minimized.

Remember, speed is of the essence when it comes to contact identification and tracking. Therefore, our church should set up a system to collect information for all participants. The following must be completed:

- Keep a log of where every person sits. Assign seat and row number (or table number) to your sanctuary and meeting rooms.
- Register everyone entering a meeting. Record name, contact information, and where they are sitting. For each household, only one person needs to register but should list the number of people in the group.
- Maintain the record for at least three weeks.
- Have a designated person in the church responsible for maintaining the meeting registration, liaising with the public health department, and helping to identify and notify contacts if necessary.

## Plan for a staff member or volunteer who becomes sick

Self-isolate if showing symptoms of COVID-19 during hours of operation and provide contact for the pastor or person in charge. Arrange for safely transporting anyone who becomes sick at the facility to their home or a healthcare facility.

- Notify County of Santa Barbara Dept. of Health officials if a person diagnosed with COVID-19 has been in the facility and communicate with staff and congregants about potential exposure while maintaining protocols as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act, or other applicable laws.
- Advise those with exposure to a person diagnosed with COVID-19 to stay at home and self-monitor for symptoms and follow CDC guidance if symptoms develop.
- Close off areas used by the sick person, and do not use the area until after cleaning and disinfection. Ensure safe and correct application of disinfectants and keep disinfectant products away from children.
- Advise staff and volunteers with symptoms of COVID-19 or who have tested positive for COVID-19 not to return to the facility until they have met CDC's criteria to discontinue home isolation.