



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

JO DAVIESS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

9483 US RT. 20 WEST • P. O. BOX 318 • GALENA, ILLINOIS 61036 • (815) 777-0263

March 3, 2020

Dear Faith-based Organizations,

As the incidence of flu virus infections increase, this memo is to communicate Jo Daviess County Health Department's (JDCHD) recommendations to assist in minimizing the spread of infection in your organization.

While we have all heard this before, the following simple daily steps are key to stop the spread of illness:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick. If you are the one who is sick, stay home so you are not infecting others.
- Cover your cough or sneeze into a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash. If no tissue, contain the germs by sneezing or coughing into the inner bend of your elbow.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Do not touch your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Clean and disinfect objects and surfaces you touch. Pay particular attention to Sunday School rooms and Nurseries.

Specific to typical faith worship, we recommend the following practices:

Entering the worship space

- We recommend that as the parishioners enter the worship space that they use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer. This should be dispensed in a hands-free manner either by using a dispensing stand or by having a person stand at the sanctuary doors and dispense the sanitizer into their hands. Do not just have a bottle of sanitizer for all to use—this causes contamination because all are touching the bottle.

Communion

- We recommend that communion wine be distributed in individual cups rather than using the Common Cup or Intinction.

Sharing the Peace

- We recommend that if sharing of the peace is part of your service that you greet each other not by handshake but by sharing a peace sign.

We hope these recommendations help your congregation minimize their risk of infection while still being part of their faith community. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Visit our website www.jodaviess.org/health for further updates.

Sandra Schleicher
Public Health Administrator
815-777-0263 x 225
sschleicher@jodaviess.org