Summary of Recommended Precautions

For the Coronavirus

As presented by the Seattle/King County Public Health Department

March 3, 2020

Resources and updates online at <https://kingcounty.gov/coronavirus>.

All general public recommendations apply including staying home when sick, proper handwashing techniques, and avoiding large gatherings if you are in an at-risk group (over 60, in contact with someone who was exposed to the virus or underlying health problems)

For churches here are some additional recommendations:

1. Sanitize all places where hands touch after every gathering including door handles, tables, instruments (piano, etc,), all children’s toys and materials. This applies when other groups use church space. At the end of every gathering there should be supplies and specific instruction on how to sanitize with bleach or Chlorox wipes.
2. Make sure you have plenty of supplies including bleach, wipes, sanitizer, TP and Kleenex. Also gloves for any food handling.
3. Remind volunteers and members who are in the high-risk category to stay home.
4. Provide for employees to work off site if necessary.
5. If you have a shelter on site, make sure everything is sanitized after people depart. There should be adequate soap and water for hand-washing. If people are sick, they need to be segregated from healthy folk. If that can’t happen on site, the City/County is opening overflow shelters where people can go.
6. There should be no common liquids including wine or water for baptism. Communion in one kind should be distributed in a controlled manner by someone who has thoroughly washed their hands with soap directly before handling the bread/wafers. Avoid touching the hands of those you distribute the bread to. Recommend emptying the baptismal font of water so that people cannot all dip their hands into it.
7. Offering plates (or anything) should not be passed from hand to hand. The ushers can hold the plate for people to drop in their offering.
8. No greeting at the door with a handshake. No physical touching during the passing of the peace.
9. If food is served there must be tongs or servers practicing proper food handlers procedures.