

# **First Baptist Church of Anderson**

## **Emergency Operations Plan for Infectious Disease Outbreaks**

### I. Introduction

Information about infectious disease outbreaks is fluid and is updated frequently. The purpose of this plan is to allow First Baptist Church of Anderson flexibility in responding to varying levels of severity and being prepared to refine plans as needed. Church staff and leaders will be encouraged to reduce transmission of disease; protect people who are at higher risk for adverse health complications; maintain spiritual connections with members and the community; and respond as much as possible to community needs.

### II. Strategies for Reducing Spread of Diseases

- Church staff will encourage hand-washing strategies to include washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or using a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available. Hand washing signs will be posted in all restrooms.
- Church staff and members will be encouraged to stay at home when sick.
- Church cleaning staff will perform routine environmental cleaning using health official guidelines.
- Church staff will make hand sanitizers readily available throughout church facilities.
- Church staff will make disposable wipes available for cleaning doorknobs and other objects touched frequently by multiple hands.
- Contact with Budd Group will be made to ensure enhanced cleaning for high touch areas.
- Child Development Center will implement deeper cleaning of toys and common areas on classroom.

### III. Communication Plan

- Through email, social media, and mailings, church members will be kept informed of steps being taken by the church to respond to infectious disease outbreaks.
- Church activity cancellations will be communicated to local television and radio stations for dissemination to the public. If necessary, phone chains will be created so that people without access to social media will be kept informed through family ministers.
- Church staff will communicate with local health officials to determine what actions need to be taken and what information needs to be communicated to members.
- Family Ministers will be encouraged to maintain contact with assigned members via text, phone, e-mail, or in-person (as appropriate) to determine needs and support.

### IV. Plan for Closure

- Any decision regarding closure will be made jointly by the senior pastor and the deacon officers.
- Church staff will discuss recommendations for closure with local health officials. Time limits for closure (temporary or for extended periods of time) will be specified.

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- Ministers will post sermons, bible study opportunities, and prayer requests on the church website/social media outlets.
- Church staff will be encouraged to work from home.
- Ministers will work with mortuaries to postpone funerals.
- The First Baptist Child Development Center will close if Anderson School District Five closes their campuses to students.
- In the event of confirmed illness within the Wilmary, the manager will close the community room until further notice.

#### V. Responding to Community in Need

- Church staff and leaders will maintain contact with community organizations to determine needs. Members will be informed of volunteer needs, especially for distributing food to shut ins.
- Church staff and leaders will offer spiritual support to community by phone and social media.
- Church staff and leaders will place a priority on communicating with shut ins or other church members who may be isolated.
- The Wilmary Housing Ministry Manager will keep in regular contact with all residents to stay aware of their ongoing conditions.
- In the event of a Wilmary resident who is sick and must be quarantined, the manager will notify pastoral staff if the resident does not have family to immediately care for them.

#### VI. Disclaimers

- This plan may change to accommodate a developing situation.
- Church staff and deacon officers may adjust church programming to accomplished the stated goals of this plan listed in the introduction.

#### VII. References for Key Resources

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Website
- Health Alert Network
- South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control