

### WHAT IS COVID-19?

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. Patients with COVID-19 have experienced mild to severe respiratory illness, including fever, cough and shortness of breath. The virus that causes COVID-19 is a novel (new) coronavirus. It is not the same as other types of coronaviruses that commonly circulate among people and cause mild illness, like the common cold. Those who are older than 60 or have underlying health conditions such as heart or lung disease, and diabetes, are particularly at risk.

### HOW DOES COVID-19 SPREAD?

The virus that causes COVID-19 is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person, between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet) through respiratory droplets when an infected person coughs or sneezes. It may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose or possibly their eyes, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads.

### GUIDANCE AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### **Gov. Holcomb's Executive Order 20-22 states:**

"All public and private gatherings, whether governmental, social, philanthropic, religious, spiritual or otherwise, of any number of people that occur outside of a single household or living unit, are prohibited unless such gathering is of ten (10) or less people who engage in social distancing and other sanitation measures. Any gathering of more than ten (10) people is hereby prohibited unless exempted by this Executive Order."

To slow the spread of coronavirus, we encourage the following:

- Live-stream or other virtual services are best
  - The minimum number of necessary personnel should be used at all times for any services
  - Staff and volunteers who are not speaking should wear masks
- If drive-in services are conducted, the following best practices are recommended:
  - Attendees should remain inside vehicles
  - Attendees should avoid physically interacting with clergy, staff or participants in other vehicles
  - Vehicles should contain only members of a single household
  - Cars should be spaced the equivalent of every other parking spot or approximately 9 feet apart
  - Portable bathrooms should not be allowed on the premises
  - In instances when communion is distributed, communion should be prepared and distributed in a manner that meets food safety standards
  - The following individuals who are vulnerable and at higher risk for illness should consider not attending:
    - Persons who are 65 years and older
    - Those who have severe underlying medical conditions, like heart or lung disease or diabetes
    - Individuals who are sick



### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Questions about COVID-19 may be directed to the ISDH COVID-19 Call Center at the toll-free number 877-826-0011 (available 8 a.m. to midnight).

Additional information and resources for COVID-19 are available at the links below.

- Additional guidance for the faith community from the CDC can be found here:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/guidance-community-faith-organizations.html>
- CDC COVID-19 webpage: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/>
- ISDH COVID-19 webpage: <https://coronavirus.in.gov>