

March 8, 2020

Dear Chinese Grace Bible Church Family,

Introduction

COVID-19 has become a serious concern for our world, our nation, and our community. As a church, we don't want to react in fear and panic, but we want to take responsible steps to protect those in our community—especially the most vulnerable among us.

Yesterday, the Elk Grove Unified School District announced that it is moving its spring break to March 9-13 and is cancelling classes this week, because a family from the district was tested positive for the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

To our knowledge, no church attendees (or their immediate families) have contracted COVID-19, so we have not suspended worship services. However, the Executive Board will continue to assess the situation, and at some point, we may temporarily suspend worship services and gatherings.

To protect our church family and our community, here's what we're doing to protect others, how we're communicating, and what you need to do to protect others.

What We're Doing

We are taking several steps to protect others:

- Suspending the lunch ministry
- Changing our communion and offering practices
- Disinfecting pews before and after worship services
- Asking other groups that use our facility to disinfect their areas after using it
- Cancelling May 2020's church camp

We're also considering other options, including livestreaming our worship services through [our YouTube channel](#) and using a phone app that would allow unified communication and online giving.

How We're Communicating

This situation is changing rapidly, so we may need to make rapid changes to protect others. Because of this, we will post updates to our church website and to [Facebook](#); we'll also make verbal announcements.

So please check the website and Facebook for updates, and please reach out to those who use the internet less frequently, to help them stay informed.

What You Need to Do

To protect others, please follow these recommendations, based on guidance from the federal Center for Diseases Control and Prevention (CDC) and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH):

- If you are sick, stay home, and cover your cough or sneeze.
- If you have been in China or another affected area, or you have been exposed to someone sick with COVID-19 in the past 14 days, quarantine yourself for 14 days.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid nonessential travel to China, South Korea, Italy, and Iran.
- If you are older or have severe chronic medical conditions, take special precautions.

As a church, we are also adding the following:

- Avoid shaking others' hands, but find other ways to greet others.
- If you meet at church during the week, please disinfect your area before and after using it.
- Check for updates from our church website, the [CDC](#), and the [CDPH](#). The CDC and CDPH provide updated information every day.
- If you know a church attendee who has been infected with COVID-19, inform an Executive Board member.
- If you have suggestions for the church's response to COVID-19, inform an Executive Board member.

Conclusion

This situation is changing rapidly, and we will respond to protect others. So please stay tuned, and above all, point others to Christ. He is our refuge, our strength, and a very present help in trouble (Psalm 46:1).

In Christ,

The Executive Board of Chinese Grace Bible Church