

31 January 2020

Pastoral Recommendation in view of public health concerns over the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) and influenza A

The recent local outbreak of influenza A and the more recent outbreak of the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) in China have raised concerns for our local congregations in DUMC.

In view of these public concerns, the leadership of DUMC would like to make the following pastoral recommendations, in the interests of public health:

1. If you have just returned in the last 2 weeks from China, you should avoid public places for 14 days from the date of your return.
2. If you have been in contact with someone being evaluated for or confirmed to have the 2019-nCoV infection, you should isolate yourself at home and monitor your condition closely for 14 days from the date of exposure.
3. If you are experiencing flu-like symptoms, e.g. fever, runny nose, sore throat, cough, cold, etc., you are advised to seek immediate medical attention, stay home and avoid public gatherings. Please inform your cell leader if this happens.
4. If you are a parent of young children, please note that our children's ministries will take every precaution necessary to protect your child's health. These precautions will apply to the children as well as ministry volunteers.
5. If your child is showing signs of possible viral infection, please seek prompt medical attention and keep your child at home to rest and recover.
6. If you have an elderly or frail person in your charge, you are encouraged to keep them from public gatherings. If this is not possible, please have them wear surgical face masks and take adequate precautions.
7. At all times, good personal hygiene ought to be maintained at an appropriate level as a regular practice.

We refer you to the Centre for Disease Control's page for helpful prevention measures:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-prevent-spread.html>.

We will continue to monitor the situation closely even as we pray for the persons already affected by these outbreaks. We pray for the medical personnel who are providing professional care to those who are ill.

We call on all members to remain calm and prayerful, to take sensible precautions, and to trust and distribute only official health announcements and information issued by the Ministry of Health.

On behalf of the leadership team,

Chris Kam
Senior Pastor