

## Meeting the Needs of Your Community

Faith-based organizations meet critical needs of their communities and provide comfort in times of stress. They can also help to ensure their communities remain healthy.



### **Leaders may want to consider the following when planning activities to help prevent the spread of COVID-19:**

- Encourage frequent hand washing or use of alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Frequently clean surfaces in your facility, such as doorknobs, telephones, and bathroom fixtures.
- Practice social distancing and consider postponing events where participants would be within 3 to 6 feet of one another.
- Protect your members, especially those over 60 years of age and those who may have low immunity or chronic medical conditions.

## Making Gatherings Safer



### **Consider making changes to your usual activities to make your gatherings as safe as possible for your members:**

- Ask members and staff who are not feeling well to stay at home.
- Ask parents to keep children who are not feeling well at home.
- Encourage older members, or those who have health conditions, to avoid church duties such as greeter or usher in order to avoid close contact with multiple people.
- Consider alternate forms of in-person greeting that do not involve shaking hands or hugging.
- If your organization provides communion, find ways to provide those sacraments in ways that do not involve communal cups and plates.
- Avoid passing collection plates from person to person. Place a collection plate or basket in one location and allow members to go to it.
- Activities that involve personal contact, such as hand holding for blessings, should be avoided.
- Encourage members to engage in frequent hand washing and to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or with their elbow.
- Ensure adequate amounts of soap and/or alcohol-based hand sanitizer to serve your members while visiting your facility.
- Consider alternatives to traditional services by utilizing live streams, pre-recorded messages and other electronic means.
- Social distancing is recommended. If participants cannot be spaced 3-6 feet from one another at the event, the event should be cancelled.
- Outdoor events that provide adequate spacing between participants are likely low-risk for spread of the virus.