



Dear Church,
March 2020

You will be aware of the evolving situation with the Coronavirus. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has announced that this virus is now categorised as a pandemic. The Victorian State Government has also enacted its own Covid 19 preparedness response plan. It is important that we adopt measures that protect and care for those in our community who are most vulnerable, especially our elderly and those with suppressed immune systems.

The following temporary measures outlined are based on the recommended guidelines given to us by the relevant government and health authorities and also from the Churches of Christ Vic/Tas. My hope is that these will help us to find the right balance between being appropriately concerned but not alarmed.

From today we will adopt the following measures:

1. If you are feeling unwell (even with only mild cold-like symptoms) we request that you do not attend any activities until you are feeling better. For a normal cold this may be 2-3 days. If you have recently travelled anywhere overseas or have been in contact with someone who has been infected, we request that you stay away from church services or any other church related event for a period of at least 14 days.
2. Our Sermons will continue to be live streamed on the Chelsea Community Church of Christ Facebook page for those who can't or choose not to attend. To access the page go here - <https://www.facebook.com/ChelseaCommunityChurhofChrist/>.. Please note that this is a public page and is accessible to all regardless of whether they have a Facebook profile or not.

3. In order to mitigate against the risk of spreading infection the serving of our communion will change. We ask that you take one complete wafer for yourself, rather than breaking it up. Juice will be provided in throwaway cups for the duration of this event.
4. We recognise that in order to mitigate against the risk of spreading infection through food service we need to adopt a much stricter food handling regime than we do currently. We will review hygiene measures relating to our Morning Tea with the view to suspending it until the crisis is over. This will include a review of our Monthly Community Lunch which also will be impacted.

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The Board will also be meeting to review whether our Wednesday programs will be postponed for the duration of the crisis. If this occurs, we need to ensure our continued support where possible for those who will undoubtedly suffer.

We request that everyone who attends our church facility adopt all the current recommended personal hygiene practices. This includes regular washing of hands, sneezing into a tissue or elbow and not touching one's face. Soap dispensers are available in the toilets and alcohol-based hand sanitisers and tissues will be placed in common use areas such as the foyer.

For the time being we will no longer encourage personal touch, which includes normal greetings such as shaking of hands or the laying on of hands while praying for others.

Our cleaning staff will continue thorough cleaning on a weekly basis, however staff will be required to disinfect other surfaces, including a second clean of the toilets per week. As part of this new cleaning regime we are also adopting a single use policy for all wipes and cleaning cloths, so use of cloth towels will not be permitted.

It is most likely that we will be inconvenienced more from the disruption this illness is causing rather than from the actual illness itself. But we recognise that this situation will be challenging for all of us. It is so important that we look out for and care for each other during this time. We encourage you to stay in touch and

look out for each other, particularly those who haven't been able to make it to church services. If you have previously informed us that you would prefer your personal details not be made public then we will continue to honour this request. However, if you would like this changed please get in touch with our Secretary Len.

If this situation is causing you to feel overly concerned, anxious or worried then please reach out to our Minister or any of the Board members who are available to listen to and pray with you.

Please remember that this situation is temporary. It will challenge us but it also gives us opportunity to rely on God, and on each other, in perhaps ways we wouldn't normally.

Finally please continue to pray into this situation, especially for our leaders who are having to make difficult decisions, for our medical staff who are anticipating being swamped, and for God's peace and protection to be resting over all in our nation and our region.

God Bless,

Marg Dowlan
Chair of the Board

Rev Judi Turnham