

## **A NOTE TO OUR CHURCH FAMILY**

Due to the recent COVID 19 cases within our fellowship, the Elders have found it necessary to suspend all public church activities at this time. We will continue to provide Sunday morning sermons on-line via our churches Facebook page and the churches Youtube page. The sermons will post at 8 AM on Sunday mornings. MJ will also continue to provide KidMin lessons and guides for parents on our GraceKids Facebook page.

Here is a reminder of the Coronavirus (COVID - 19) symptoms from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) taken from their website at [cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus).

### **Symptoms include:**

- cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- fever or chills
- muscle or body aches
- vomiting or diarrhea
- new loss of taste or smell

Symptoms can range from mild to severe illness, and appear 2-14 days after you are exposed to the virus that causes COVID - 19. Please call your healthcare provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning you.

### **How does someone get Coronavirus?**

You generally need to be in close contact with a person who has COVID -19 while they are contagious to get infected.

Close contact includes:

- Living with a person who has COVID -19
- Providing care for a person who has COVID -19
- being within 6 feet of a person who has COVID -19 for at least 15 minutes
- Having exposure to respiratory secretions ( e.g., being coughed or sneezed on, sharing drinking glass or utensils; kissing).

A person with COVID - 19 is considered to be contagious starting from as early as 2 days before they show symptoms (or 2 days before they tested positive if they never had symptoms) until they meet the criteria to discontinue isolation.

### **What are the criteria for isolation once someone has tested positive?**

- Stay home for 14 days after your last contact with a person who has COVID-19
- Watch for fever (100.4°F), cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms of COVID-19
- If possible, stay away from others, especially people who are at higher risk for getting very sick from COVID-19

Let us be faithful to pray for those that have Coronavirus.

***“Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.”***  
- Romans 12:10

From Pastor Aaron:

I have COVID 19. I figured eventually I would say those words since the likelihood is that most of us will eventually be exposed to it. Still, it is weird to say it. I know people are curious, so the following is the timeline of events.

We have been attending camp at Sky Ranch for over 15 years. This year that wasn't an option so we opted for Maranatha Bible Camp in Missouri.

-Our High School students were the first to attend. That week had over 250 total campers! The camp took precautions to isolate students into “circles of 50” so that the number of people students were exposed to was small —as if the camp had only 50, not 250 attendees. We ate in separate rooms, socially distanced during worship sessions etc...

-Our elementary students attended next, first the day campers and then the 3rd-5th graders. All of these camps as well as another high school week and another middle school week of camp went off without any COVID cases at all. Not a single one.

-We had no reason to believe this week of camp would be any different so we returned from our MS camp assuming the same result. The week went well, no one from our dorms was sick and we had no idea any one else had any issues.

-One of our sponsors felt a little sick Saturday night so did not come to church on Sunday.

-It wasn't until Sunday afternoon that I received word that a male student from one of the other churches had been sent home early from camp(Friday morning) with a fever and then on Saturday evening had a confirmed test.

- Later that evening, I, and a few of the students also started showing mild symptoms.
- Monday morning we received two positive confirmations and later that afternoon a couple more including mine.

Yes, I was at church on Sunday. I assure you, had I any inclination that I was infected or had any chance of infection I would not have been. Nor would I have kissed my beautiful wife when I got home. I would have isolated myself until such a time I knew it was safe to be around the people I love. I did wear my mask when I was in the lobby per church recommendation (a very short while I was there before and after the service), and was socially distanced from everyone while in the sanctuary. I would remind everyone that these are the very reason we implemented those precautions. We are all praying the steps we have taken protected everyone else from exposure. Please be sure to read the social distance information provided in the other article above for what constitutes risk of exposure.

I am very grateful to the parents of our students who attended camp. They are truly living out our name GraceCommunity. While COVID may be affecting our ability to commune with one another, it isn't affecting our ability to be gracious. You have all been very kind and understanding reminding me that we all knew there was some risk in attending camp. Again, thank you.

At the time of writing this article, I have only a mild headache and a runny nose. I attribute the mildness of my symptoms to the outpouring of prayer from our church family. Thank you. Know I am also praying for you. May the Lord, God of the universe, who granted us all life, protect each one of us in this moment.

Blessings to you all  
Pastor Aaron