



MIKE DEWINE

GOVERNOR OF OHIO

Administration
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June 11, 2020

Dear Ministerial Community Member,

As you know, the corona virus is still very much with us. I am very grateful for all the steps you have taken to keep safe those attending services.

Because of our respect for the First Amendment, we exempted religious services from any mandates. However, we know a number of churches, synagogues, mosques, and other places of worship stopped in-building services. Now that they are starting to open back up, I feel it is important to share with you where we believe we are in Ohio:

1. For a month, our case numbers have been steady, not going up and not going down. For the last 21 days, we have averaged 31 deaths per day, 69 new hospital admissions per day, and 468 number of new cases in average each day;
2. Indoor activity is inherently more dangerous than outdoor because of the recirculating of the air inside. The more you can include outside air the better;
3. Having members of the congregation sit with their families and each family sitting at least six feet from other people is essential. Masks worn by members of your congregations is a great addition to the social distancing. The two used together add a lot of protection;
4. Please eliminate as much as possible the touching of common surfaces, such as collection baskets and hymnals; and
5. I would continue to discourage your most vulnerable from coming to church. Those over 65 and those with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma, serious heart conditions, immune compromised conditions, severe obesity (body mass index of 40 or higher), chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis, or liver disease should take precautions and be particularly careful.

Thank you for all you are doing to conduct services in a manner that protects those in attendance. This is truly about loving thy neighbor, as our own individual safety efforts is the best way to protect each other.

Very respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike DeWine".

Mike DeWine
Governor