

PREFACE:

As you may have already heard, our Governor, Mr. Jared Polis, has issued another emergency directive designed to arrest the spread of COVID-19 ordering Coloradans to stay at home. The Elders wanted you to know what our plans are for the foreseeable future.

First, note the selected portion of the Governor's Directive and portions of the state-issued FAQ providing additional guidance:

Directive B. I direct all Coloradans to stay at home, subject to limited exceptions such as obtaining food and other household necessities, going to and from work at critical businesses, seeking medical care, caring for dependents or pets, or caring for a vulnerable person in another location.

Directive D.1.2: Individuals must be permitted to carry on basic activities necessary to care for themselves, their families, and to maintain their places of residence. The public health order must therefore identify authorized activities individuals may engage in consistently with the goals of this Executive Order.

From the State-Issued "FAQ Stay in Place Order 3.25.20)

The Where does the "Stay in Place" order apply?

The Governor's executive order includes the entire state except areas in which a county health authority obtains approval from CDPHE to modify the order. Unless you work for a critical business or are doing an essential activity, you should stay home. Work from home is permitted and encouraged where possible. Although this order does not apply to critical business, social distancing will be mandated for those businesses that remain open.

What is the difference between the stay in place order and social distancing?

Stay in Place makes it very clear that Coloradans should take extreme steps to avoid contact with anybody outside their household and minimize contact in public places that could be contaminated with the COVID-19 virus.

What is a Critical Business or Operation Under the Order? These are the businesses that will be open:

1. Healthcare Operations, Including: ... hospitals, clinics, and walk-in health facilities.
5. Critical Services, Including: ... in-person pastoral services for individuals who are in crisis or in need of end of life services provided social distancing is observed to the greatest extent possible.

Secondly, the 9News.com website, updated as of 3:38 PM MDT March 26, 2020 has released a full copy of the updated Public Health Order 20-24 which includes the following expanded definition: (<https://www.9news.com/article/news/health/coronavirus/denver-stay-at-home-order-list-coronavirus-covid-19/73-2004517c-d3ef-46a9-8d11-6d13c1b5586b>)

Essential services and businesses that may remain open

In-person pastoral services for individuals who are in crisis or in need of end of life services provided social distancing is observed to the greatest extent possible. Houses of worship may remain open, however, these institutions are encouraged to implement electronic platforms to conduct services whenever possible or to conduct smaller (10 or fewer congregants), more frequent services to allow strict compliance with Social Distancing Requirements.

RESPONSE:

Galeton Community Church appreciates the recognition the State of Colorado has given to the importance and necessity of gathering together to worship our Lord, Jesus Christ. Therefore, It is not the Elders' intention to cancel our regular worship but to continue to meet at our regular times to worship the Lord according to His commands.

In keeping with our intention, **we also wish to comply with the other directives in the declaration**, concerning hygiene, distancing, etc. We have therefore created seating arrangements enforcing a 6' separation or greater between families and have opened other areas, as necessary, to ensure social distancing guidelines are enforced and maintained.

If you believe yourself to be at risk, please do not consider this a demand on the part of the Elders that you attend, this communication contains nothing of the kind. **If you are ill, feverish, actively coughing or sneezing, *please stay home***, as you may be at greater risk to yourself or others.

If you believe yourself to be at risk, *please stay ho*. Seeing that we have had some illness in our congregation already, steps have been taken, and are ongoing, to provide extra sanitation in our building, including but not limited to the table tops, microwaves, and other items frequently coming into contact with hands, etc. and this will continue, as a part of our cleaning, as long as necessary.

Let us call upon the Lord, that with this affliction, however mild or severe it turns out to be, that He would grant repentance and reformation.

First to the Church, especially in these particulars:

1. To understand her duty to worship the Lord in Spirit and Truth.
2. To keep one whole day in seven, the first day of the week, as a Holy Sabbath to the Lord.
3. To consider the command of the Lord to gather, to call upon His Name, to Worship Him not an optional thing, but that she would consider His Worship greater than some elective event, more important than a visit to the grocery store or to the restaurant, and attend diligently upon Him in the means of grace. (Psalm 9.1; 111.1; John 4.30-34)
4. To repent of so quickly and easily canceling worship services, instead of realizing that it is times like these when the Church ought to be meeting; praying for repentance and relief, hearing the teaching of the Word of God in order to know how to be of service to God and our fellow men, and to receive comfort from the Word of God. (Lamentations 3.39-41)

Second, for our society at large:

1. To turn unto the Lord, trusting Him in times of disaster. I noted with some sadness that our governor's order did not call upon the citizens of Colorado to pray, and call upon the Lord for deliverance.
2. To cease trusting in means, believing that means alone can work for the solution of any affliction or solving the effects of any disaster, and imbibing in such practical atheism.
3. To awaken voices of Godly wisdom and reason, speaking the truth in love, providing Biblical solutions to difficulties such as we face today.

It is in time of trial, affliction, and deprivation that the idols of our minds come more fully into notice, and are more fully revealed as replacements and lesser saviors to the true and living God. Let us be ever mindful to continue to obey the lawful orders of and pray for our leaders – local, state, and federal – that they will respond to this crisis in ways that honor God and recognize His sovereignty and our dependence upon Him. May God show mercy in Christ Jesus, upon His people.