



March 12, 2020

Nansemond River Church Family,

As mentioned by Pastor Ryan on Sunday, the elders of our congregation met this week and discussed the worldwide Coronavirus outbreak. Even since our meeting on Monday, additional information has come to light as our governments try to deal with the pandemic. At this time, we will not be canceling any of our regularly scheduled services or activities. If it were to become necessary for us to do so, we would communicate this information with you as quickly and effectively as possible.

While we are not making any cancelations at this time, we would like to institute some enhanced policies to help ensure the wellbeing of everyone in our congregation. Please remember, "we value a diverse, multi-generational congregation." Because of this, we all need to take appropriate steps to safeguard our older generation and those with compromised immune systems and pre-existing conditions who are the most susceptible to major complications from COVID-19. We ask all members and regular attenders to follow these guidelines during this time:

1. If anyone in your household has had a fever in the last 24 hours, we ask that all members of that person's household refrain from attending any service, small group, or activity at NRBC.
2. If a member or regular attender of NRBC is diagnosed with COVID-19, we ask that all members of that person's household not attend any service, small group, or activity at NRBC for at least 14 days from diagnosis. While we respect the privacy of your medical information, we would also request that you inform the church office of your diagnoses. As with all private health matters, we will not publish this information on our prayer list or communicate it in any way beyond our staff and elders without your permission.
3. If a member or regular attender of NRBC comes in contact with a person who has been diagnosed with COVID-19, we ask that you not attend any service, small group, or activity at NRBC for at least 14 days from contact.
4. If a member or regular attender of NRBC returns from international travel to regions in Asia or Europe with high infection rates, we ask that you not attend any service, small group, or activity at NRBC for at least 14 days from reentry into the United States.

5. We encourage all members to follow the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's recommendation to refrain from shaking hands to prevent the possible spread of the virus. While we recognize that we cannot enforce this recommendation, our pastor/elders will all be following this policy over the next several weeks.

In addition to these new policies, we want to assure you that our staff is doing everything in our power to limit the spread of the virus on our campus. We have increased sterilization of often-touched surfaces, increased the number of hand sanitizing stations throughout our building, and will be changing preschool and elementary check-in procedures to limit the number of people touching the check-in computers. Additionally, our ushers will be taking the offering at the door as you exit the service instead of passing the offering plate for at least the next several weeks.

While COVID-19 may not pose an immediate threat to many in our congregation, we must do everything in our power to limit the fast spread of this virus for the sake of our older generation and those with compromised immune systems and pre-existing conditions. In this time of uncertainty, we do not want to operate out of a spirit of fear; however, we do believe the above steps are wise at this time. Please follow these policies as an act of "loving one another."

We are blessed to live in an age of technology that allows us to expand our reach beyond the limits of our property. If you are sick and need to remain home or will be self-quarantining for preventative measures, please remember that we live-stream our services on Facebook and our website, and all sermons are posted online as well. Also, to ensure the ongoing ministry of our church, online giving is available to utilize at any time. It is easy and free to set-up from our website. If you do become infected or need to self-quarantine and need assistance with food or basic supplies, please contact the church office and we will do our best to assist you and your family.

Finally, we ask that you make the spread of this virus in our nation and around the world a matter of urgent prayer. The Lord was not taken by surprise when this outbreak began, and our faith is firmly rooted in His plan and purposes. As people of faith, we should pray that He will limit the spread of the virus, heal those afflicted by it, comfort the families of those who have lost loved ones from it, and give wisdom to our leaders who are attempting to deal with it.

- Elders of Nansemond River Baptist Church