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CHURCH OF THE
ASCENSION
DIOCESE OF SINGAPORE

圣公会
荣升堂

The Church of the Ascension

COVID-19 Advisory to COA Members – Updated 7 March 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This Advisory is to provide the latest updates regarding the COVID-19 situation, which is currently at DORSCON Orange.

Sunday Services (English 8:00am, 10:00am and Chinese 10:00am) will proceed on 08 March 2020 as usual.

As part of our social responsibility to safeguard the health and safety of all members and our community, please take note of the following:

1) Before Coming to Church

Check the Church website or App, or contact your cell leaders/ministry head for any latest updates.

We should stay at home:

- If we have cough, or runny nose/sneezing, or sore throat or fever, or breathlessness, and we should see a Doctor. We should stay home and rest, even if we are only mildly unwell.
- If we have travelled to mainland China, Iran, northern Italy or the Republic of Korea and others as advised by MOH in the last 14 days.
- If we have been in close contact with anyone who has been to mainland China, Iran, northern Italy or the Republic of Korea and others as advised by MOH in the last 14 days and are feeling unwell.
- If we are currently placed on any Stay-Home Notice (SHN) or Leave of Absence (LOA) by MOH or our employer.
- If we have been in close contact with anyone who is a confirmed case (NOT suspect case) of COVID-19.

2) At the Church Entrance

We have implemented holistic pre-service screening procedures comprising:

- temperature taking
- health and contact declaration (for health risk assessment purposes)
- attendance and contact information (for contact tracing purposes)

Please help to facilitate the process by scanning the QR code or by going to the link with your Smartphone/Tablet to declare the necessary information.

You may also like to add the webpage to your home screen for easy access in future attendance taking.



tiny.cc/coadeclaration

Members with fever (37.6°C or more) or contact history will be advised to rest at home and/or see a doctor instead.

3) **During Service**

As part of precautionary measures, we seek your understanding on the following:

- Exchange of the Peace: To promote and practice non-touch greeting gestures.
- Offertory: To drop offertory into the boxes placed at the entrances. You may wish to consider using e-banking services during this period too.
- Holy Communion: Practice intinction by dipping the wafer in the wine instead of sipping directly from the cup.
- If we develop cough or frequent sneezing during the service, to put on a mask and cough/sneeze into tissue papers that are promptly disposed into bins. If the condition persists, to excuse ourselves from the service.

4) **After Service**

The most effective preventive measure is to practice good personal hygiene and exercise care for one another by staying away from others when one is even mildly unwell.

- Practise frequent and thorough hand washing with soap and water. Hand sanitizers with at least 60 percent alcohol may be used when washing is not possible, but it is only effective when carried out properly and thoroughly.
- Avoid touching our faces.
- Practise coughing or sneezing into tissue paper and throwing it away immediately.
- Masks should be worn by those who are unwell to contain respiratory fluids emitted while coughing or sneezing.

During this period, we should follow the Lord's commandment to "love your neighbour as yourself" and extend care and help to all who are in need, regardless of social boundaries.

- This includes a commitment not to behave in any way that discriminates against Chinese nationals at this difficult time.
- Show appreciation and support for healthcare workers who are working very hard to care for the sick and restore public health.
- Be sensitive and reach out to persons who are in need at this time of adversity. Some may be elderly staying on their own without much social support. Others could be in a state of fear or need help in caring for a loved one who is quarantined. Foreign workers with limited income who may need financial assistance to see a doctor.
- Let us remember these groups in our public and private prayers and ask God for meaningful ways to show that we care.

The Scriptures encourage us to trust in God, take the necessary precautions and step forward to meet our neighbour's need with the love of Christ. May the Lord be our confidence, our wisdom and our glory.

Vicar and COA Safety Committee (incorporating COVID-19 Response Team)