

## **Buford Church of Christ statement on COVID-19 (Coronavirus)**

The opportunity to worship and fellowship together are wonderful gifts from God made available to us through the blood of Jesus. As elders, we want to take every opportunity to promote and foster these opportunities. Any decision made that would interfere with the opportunities afforded us as the body of Christ will be made with prayer and significant consideration.

As you are all aware, there is a health crisis caused by COVID-19 (aka Coronaovirus), and it is spreading rapidly within our borders. While it is not the flu, it is a pneumonia-like infection that manifests itself as a mild to severe respiratory illness with fever, cough, and difficulty breathing. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) believes that symptoms may appear in as few as two days or as long as 14 days after exposure.

### **How is the current COVID-19 coronavirus transmitted?**

People can catch COVID-19 from others who have the virus. The disease can spread from person to person through small droplets from the nose or mouth, which can spread when a person with COVID-19 coughs or exhales. These droplets also land on objects and surfaces around the person. Other people then catch COVID-19 by touching these objects or surfaces, then touching their eyes, nose, or mouth. Therefore, it is important to stay more than 3 feet away from a person who is sick. The CDC recommends as much as 6 feet. It may be possible to catch the virus from someone even before they have symptoms.

### **Can the virus spread from contact with infected surfaces or objects?**

It may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes, but this is not thought to be the primary way the virus spreads.

### **What steps can we take now to minimize the risk of transmission to each other?**

You should be taking the same steps that you would take to avoid the seasonal flu. Of course, the best way to prevent infection is to avoid exposure.

- 1) If you are sick or feel ill, please do not attend worship or related gatherings
- 2) For the time being, we believe it would be prudent to avoid shaking hands, hugging, or greeting one another with a holy kiss (Romans 16:16 - just seeing if you were still reading).
- 3) Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- 4) Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- 5) Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- 6) Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- 7) Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

### **What are we doing as a congregation to protect ourselves?**

- 1) We will pray that God will protect our country and our members and spare us from contracting the virus.
- 2) We will do our best to maintain a facility that is as clean as possible, given the resources that we have at our disposal.
- 3) We will provide hand sanitizers and soap for frequent washings, as long as supplies are available to us.
- 4) We will communicate with membership in the event we believe meeting as a body is hazardous to the health of our members.
- 5) In the event worship or a gathering is canceled, we will do our best to offer alternative study and worship opportunities through broadcasts provided on our website [www.bufordcoc.com](http://www.bufordcoc.com). Communication will be made through the website, emails and/or phone trees, notifying members of any changes to our schedule for gathering.
- 6) We will secure and provide home kits, including Lord's Supper emblems for partaking at home in a family setting for those that do not have unleavened bread or fruit of the vine available to them.

*COVID-19 has been shown to be specifically harmful to those who are elderly, have respiratory issues, or are suffering from autoimmune deficiencies. We urge all of these groups to show particular caution and to use good judgment when deciding to attend worship or other church-related gatherings. We urge everyone to research the virus and make the best decision for you and your families.*

God is good all the time. We look forward to a world that is free from fear and death and one that enjoys the true peace and joy that can only come through an obedient relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

In Him,

The Elders