

Dear Fort Garry Family,

As you are aware, the global spread of COVID19 has been declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization. Manitoba has, as of this writing, 3 presumptive cases. As a church we want to do our part to limit and slow the spread of the virus – especially regarding the more vulnerable around us. At this time, we will continue to hold services as usual, with some adjustments made in response to government recommendations. At this moment, we are taking the following steps:

- We will ensure that hand sanitizer is available at all stations around the church
- Additional hand sanitizer will be provided during communion for use prior to taking the elements.
- Coffee and tea will not be served in the foyer after the service.
- Offering baskets will be placed by the sanctuary doors, rather than being passed around. The drop slot by the church office is also available, and we continue to accept donations online [on our website](#)
- We continue to ensure janitorial services are thorough and frequent in an effort to maintain a clean environment however caution and common sense is always encouraged when occupying a space within the building.
- For the time being, [Sunday](#) School for adults and children will be cancelled, to minimize the close contact involved.

We also ask that congregants take precautions for the health of others:

- Please follow handwashing and hygiene recommendations – see the fact sheets linked below.
- Avoid unnecessary close contact with others - instead of a handshake or a hug, let's greet with a friendly wave or cheerful "hello".
- If you are feeling unwell or if you have travelled outside of the country in the last 2 weeks, please stay home.
- If you have a close contact who is ill or has travelled outside the province, monitor closely for any symptoms of cough and cold.
- If you are elderly, have underlying medical conditions, please consider whether you choose to attend larger gatherings. Should you decide not to attend, please let friends, staff or deacons know so that we can reach out in other ways to stay in touch!

To emphasize the last points – regardless of your function in the service, if you are unwell, stay home. No one is so crucial to the service that a substitution cannot be made. For those choosing to not attend service, the audio for service will be posted online, as usual [on our website](#). Use the password "listen" to access recordings.

Let us all be diligent and mindful of praying for those who are affected physically, emotionally, and financially by these events.

For more information, see the guidance from [Manitoba Health](#) and [Health Canada](#)  
Information in other languages is available - [Mandarin](#), [Cantonese](#), and [Arabic](#)