



HEALTH OFFICER NOTICE



From the Desk of Gregory Wm. Branch, M.D., MBA, CPE, FACP

RE: Mitigating COVID-19 Outbreaks Among Faith-Based Institutions

October 16, 2020

The Baltimore County Department of Health is aggressively working to mitigate, contain and prevent the spread of the coronavirus. Faith-based institutions can help in this effort by consistently encouraging your parishioners, educational affiliates and community members to safeguard themselves and others against this pandemic.

It is vital that you continue to emphasize how important it is to:

- Wear face coverings while inside public venues and outside when social distancing is not possible;
- Avoid large gatherings;
- Maintain a distance of at least six feet from others;
- Wash hands regularly with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available; and
- Stay at home if you do not feel well.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Maryland Department of Health, and the Baltimore County Department of Health all advise against participating in gatherings, ceremonies and special events that involve large groups. Additionally, please ensure that all educational organizations affiliated with your institutions are observing protocols included in their plan for re-opening. Operating outside of their plan can result in the closure of the educational facility.

Working in tandem with Baltimore County faith-based organizations and the communities you serve will help to ensure a safer, healthier Baltimore County for everyone. We hope you will reach out with any questions or concerns you may have. The number for our COVID-19 Hotline is 410-887-3816 and is available seven days a week to serve you.