

Addressing Concerns about COVID-19

In light of the recent outbreak of COVID-19, the leadership of La Casa Church thought it is best to keep you informed and full of faith. The following is a clear, concise review of how we are approaching this concern. As believers, we are not to be influenced by fear, remembering always how the perfect love God has for us is designed to “cast out fear” (1 John 4:18).

FAST FACTS ON COVID-19

1. COVID-19 was first detected in China and has now been detected in over 100 nations, including in the United States.
2. This virus has recently been declared a pandemic, but much remains unknown, with fatality totals running much lower than for the seasonal flu (which has killed at least 20,000 people in the United States so far this season); yet with the percentage mortality over against contraction a little higher ([3.4%](#) as opposed to fewer than 1%). According to the World Health Organization, COVID-19 is deadlier than the flu based on current numbers, but it does not transmit as easily.
3. For most of the American public, the immediate health risk from COVID-19 is considered low. For the already sick, the elderly, and those with compromised immune systems, the risk is considerably higher.

OUR RESPONSE

1. Faith not Fear—Unfortunately, the threat of infection exists every day, and in almost every way. God made our immune systems to fight off the pathogens in the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the food we eat. Ninety-nine percent of the time, it (our immune system) wins the battle without us even knowing a battle has been waged. Yet, that 1% of the time, when we become aware of the fight (symptoms), too often dominates our attention. Still, neither illness nor the threat of illness should cause us to panic, but to trust God. The Lord remains our refuge and strength, “an ever-present help in trouble” (Ps. 46:1). To trust in the Lord amid trouble is to experience and bear witness to the power of Christ.
2. Prayer—We are called to be people of prayer, caring for the sick (Matt. 10:8), at times at the risk of our own lives (John 15:13). Pray for our leaders, doctors, and caregivers, to bring healing and be protected from harm. In addition, pray for those who have lost loved ones.
3. Wisdom—We are called to use wisdom at all times, so here’s what that looks like:
 - Gatherings—Our Sunday gatherings will continue to occur. Nothing has been modified or canceled. However, if you are sick, or you think you might be, please exercise all the wisdom available. If you’ll let us know, we’d love to pray for you.
 - Increased Cleanliness—We always clean all our spaces well, but we’ll be taking an extra measure of care, especially in Casa kid’s ministry spaces.

- Personal Hygiene—Wash your hands! We recommend you check out the [CDC Flu Prevention Guidelines](#). These include things like washing your hands, covering your mouth when you cough, etc.

LET'S GO

Remember, we're called to make disciples. No disease, no war, no fear will stop the advancement of the gospel and the building of God's church. Stay in faith, stay in the Scriptures, and let's stay together trusting God for a speedy and safe resolution to this disease and its effects. If anything changes, we'll let you know.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to our pastoral staff.

In Christ,

Fikri Youssef
Lead Pastor, La Casa Church