

East Jamaica Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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March 13, 2020

To All Pastors and Members

Dear Brethren:

Re: Advisory No. 2 - Coronavirus (Covid-19) and Church Operations

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

The coronavirus (Covid-19) is here in Jamaica and at this point, eight (8) persons have tested positive. As leaders, we are aware that there are growing concerns among our members as it relates to our church operations and therefore, we have made the following decisions and recommendations:

- The Mission 2020 Pathway of Hope Evangelistic Series has been postponed. The speaker Dr. Abraham Jules who is from New York (USA) has been advised not to travel at this time. In addition to this, the risks associated with congregating during this period, may be detrimental to you our constituents. We will update you on the way forward in subsequent advisories.
- While the Health Ministry suggested that we do not officially close our churches, the Administration recommends that wherever the congregation is uncomfortable with congregational gathering they may make the decision on whether to proceed with worship services at the local level.
- Churches that proceed with worship services are being asked to follow the guidelines and recommendations of the World Health Organization and Ministry of Health.
- Though Covid 19 exists and perhaps will escalate in the number of reported cases, we encourage local church leadership to



engage in the production of creative evangelistic content (with special emphasis to our unique Advent Message for this time), which may include but not be limited to:

- i) Recording of sermons presented by our Pastors
- ii) Recording of Sabbath School Small Group Discussions
- iii) Recording of Health Series and lectures
- iv) Recording of Youth Week of Prayer Readings and other Christ centred Youth discussions
- v) Recording of Family Life discussions

These may be shared on all social media platforms established by the local congregation.

Additionally, we provide the following guidelines:

- Members who are infected with the virus should not physically attend church services during the period of infection, but should be prayed for and encouraged.
- Church leaders should ensure that the health/hygiene related protocols be established and followed.
- The frequency of baptisms and communion services should be reduced as much as is possible and practical.

In closing, let us continue to pray for each other and for our country as God wants us to be healthy and happy. But let us not panic or be fearful. Rather, let us continue to trust in God, be supportive of each other, and exercise care and compassion for one another. Let us remember **3 John 1:2**, “Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.”

Yours Sincerely

Administration

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