



# COVID-19 UPDATE

Dear Church Family,

We know that there is a rising concern about the coronavirus that has produced much fear in our country, state, and town. It is crazy to us how fast this fear has developed in the last few days. Two days ago, we were talking about the lack of toilet paper in stores and the idea of the NBA playing basketball games without fans. But within one day it seems like everything is being affected by this fear of the coronavirus. As the pastoral team at Country Oaks, we would like to remind our church family that we should respond to this situation in two ways, with faith and wisdom.

In uncertain times, we should remember that our hope is not found in governments, doctors, systems, grocery stores or even in healthcare. Rather, our hope is found in the God of the universe who is faithful and trustworthy. We have faith in a good God and we should not be anxious. We would like to encourage our church family to view this situation through a biblical lens and remember that for those in Christ, we have no reason to worry or fear.

## Scriptural reflection:

The coronavirus is providing an important opportunity for us to reflect on our true hope, which is forgiveness of sin and eternal life in Christ. God is all-powerful, all-loving and wise. He is sovereign even over sickness, disease, and viruses. Before focusing on the coronavirus, take a moment to meditate on the following promises from scripture.

*He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.*

**Revelation 21:4**

*For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.*

**2 Timothy 1:7**

*Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."*

**1 Peter 5:6-7**

**John 16:32-33**

*So we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?"*

**Hebrews 13:6**

*And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?*

**Matthew 6:27**

*Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.*

After discussion and prayer, we as a pastoral team have come up with a readiness plan. Please continue to pray for us as we pray for you.

Love in Christ,

The COBC Pastoral Team

# COBC COVID-19 READINESS PLAN

As we consider the reality of the coronavirus pandemic, a response of wisdom is also required. Our faith in Christ does not mean we ought to be reckless or uninformed. At a minimum, we encourage everyone to embrace common-sense preventative measures, like washing hands. The elders at Country Oaks have outlined a response plan for our church. The following guide gives you an overview of our planned response depending on the situation status.

We are currently working at a Level 1 response to the coronavirus. All worship gatherings and ministries are active but we are asking all of our members to promote healthy hygiene. If you or family members have any symptoms of illness we would ask you to stay home and watch the Sunday morning service on Livestream. We would also ask that anyone who is considered high-risk to please stay home and watch the service on Livestream. A link to our Livestream can be found at [countryoaks.org](http://countryoaks.org) or on the church's Facebook page. Thank you so much and please pray for the leadership at COBC as we trust in God for His direction

<b>Level 1</b>	Confirmed cases of COVID-19 in counties bordering Kern County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All worship, ministries, and small groups are active.</li> <li>• Promote healthy hygiene habits</li> <li>• Ask those to stay home if they have symptoms of illness</li> <li>• Ask those to stay home if they have a weak immune system or if they are considered high-risk according to the CDC website</li> </ul>
<b>Level 2</b>	Confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Kern County or the Lancaster/Plamdale area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exchange nods rather than handshakes or hugs at any COBC meetings</li> <li>• Leadership begins contingency planning for Sunday services and Bible studies</li> <li>• Possibility of canceling midweek gatherings</li> <li>• Possibility of canceling Sunday services and moving to Livestream only</li> </ul>
<b>Level 3</b>	Confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Tehachapi  <b>OR</b> Public mandate for all churches to stop public gatherings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limit Sunday services to online only</li> <li>• Cancel all midweek gatherings</li> <li>• Church office will remain open</li> </ul>
<b>Level 4</b>	Confirmed case of COVID-19 at Country Oaks Baptist Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limit Sunday services to online only</li> <li>• Cancel all midweek gatherings</li> <li>• Church office will be closed</li> <li>• Follow CDC recommendations for deep-cleaning facilities</li> </ul>

According to the Center for Disease control, an individual is considered high-risk if they are an older adult or if they have serious chronic medical conditions, such as heart disease, diabetes, or lung disease.