

12 March 2020

Brothers and Sisters,

There are times when the rapidly changing events in the world around us can be unsettling and confusing. It is most important that as this type of event affects our routines and relationships in the Stake that we are careful to communicate accurately and be patient as our leaders guide the church.

The spread of the Coronavirus-COVID 19 is one of these events. Several recent announcements from The First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve Apostle, communicate precautions that are intended to help us be wise and prudent as more complete understanding and potential risks become known.

The most recent letter reads:

**Update: Gatherings of Church Members Temporarily Suspended Worldwide  
Local leaders will counsel to determine how to make the sacrament available to members at least once a month**

*The First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve Apostles of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints sent the following letter March 12, 2020, to Church members worldwide.*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As promised in our letter of March 11, 2020, we continue to monitor the changing conditions related to COVID-19 throughout the world. We have considered the counsel of local Church leaders, government officials and medical professionals, and have sought the Lord's guidance in these matters. We now provide the following updated directions.

Beginning immediately, all public gatherings of Church members are being temporarily suspended worldwide until further notice. This includes:

- Stake conferences, leadership conferences and other large gatherings
- All public worship services, including sacrament meetings
- Branch, ward and stake activities

Where possible, leaders should conduct any essential leadership meetings via technology. Specific questions may be referred to local priesthood leaders. Further direction related to other matters will be provided.

Bishops should counsel with their stake president to determine how to make the sacrament available to members at least once a month.

We encourage members in their ministering efforts to care for one another. We should follow the Savior's example to bless and lift others.

We bear our witness of the Lord's love during this time of uncertainty. He will bless you to find joy as you do your best to live the gospel of Jesus Christ in every circumstance.

Sincerely,

The First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

We will follow with enthusiasm and gratitude the counsel of the Brethren. Please use good judgement and caution as you continue to serve; using telephone, email, social media and other means available to look after and care for each other. Consult local leaders and the information posted on the church sites for updated information as this process moves forward.

Your Bishop holds the keys of the Aaronic Priesthood and may authorize brethren who hold the appropriate authority to exercise this authority to allow the sacrament to be administered to their families at home weekly. This will be a sacred experience that your children will always remember. They may also oversee the effort to provide the sacrament to every willing family at least monthly until we meet again as wards or branches.

Please continue to use the resources of Come Follow Me to teach and find delight in keeping the sabbath day holy.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey F Bellows  
Randy M Widdison  
Terry R Davis

Stake Presidency  
Oklahoma City South