



# NEWLIFE CHURCH LETCHWORTH

18 March 2020

Good morning all -

Given the recent government updates and guidelines regarding Covid-19 and non-essential contact, we have decided to take the step to suspend our gatherings for the foreseeable future.

With immediate effect, we will be suspending *all* Corporate Gatherings. This means our Sunday morning and all of our FUSED Groups which include Babies & Buggies, First Thursdays, Luminous Youth, Women's Revive and the Men's Breakfast.

We will be stopping *all* Team Gatherings. This affects those of you who are part of the Wider Leadership Team, Speaking Team, Fused Leaders's Team and the various serving teams.

We are aware that this is an unprecedented time and there are a lot of questions which no one knows the answer to yet.

We feel our best response is not not be afraid, but recognise that we will also not be foolish. We will trust and follow the guidelines given by those who are more experienced and qualified to give advice in these situations.

This is a stark reminder of how precious life is but also a reminder for us, to do what we should always do - rely on God.

This will bring significant change to our regular interactions, not only with one another but with others in our families, workplaces and communities.

We take seriously our duty of care for one another and will be doing whatever we can to support each other.

We are continuing to work behind the scenes to put things in place for remotely connecting over this time and will keep you informed of any developments.

Thankfully the PA Team had the foresight and piston to take the initiative to purchase equipment that would facilitate us being able to stream services and broadcast live. They are presently working on this to see how we can get this up and running quickly so that we can broadcast some opportunities for connecting together. We will keep you posted on how this progresses.

Please stay connected with each other via phone or online means.

If you need to isolate for any health reasons, please let us know so we can help ensure you are taken care of. Please contact Richard Nevard via email at [richard@nlcletchworth.org](mailto:richard@nlcletchworth.org) to advise us of any health developments you may be experiencing.

This unusual season is an opportunity to be the body of Christ and look out for one another. Please use ChurchSuite to get one another's contact details and take the initiative to look out for each other - especially those who are at home on their own - *Let's Love Others Well*.

If you have any questions, please get in touch with us. We will keep you updated as things are continuing to rapidly change.



With much love

Joel, Beth, Richard & Elaine

*We include below summaries of the guidelines and some resources for you to stay informed. These summaries set out why we have made the decision to suspend our gatherings until future notice.*

*Please note the advice is being updated regularly and we advise you stay informed by following the links provided in this document.*

Here is a short video summarising the recent government guidelines: [March 16th 2020 Advice](#)

## **WHAT ARE THE RECENT GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES?**

- Everyone in the UK is now being advised to avoid "non-essential" contact with others and "unnecessary" travel
- People are also being asked to work from home "where they possibly can", and avoid pubs, clubs, theatres and social venues
- People are now being advised to stay at home for 14 days if they, or *anyone* in their household, has either a high temperature or a "new and continuous cough"
- People in at-risk groups will be asked within days to be "largely shielded from social contact" for 12 weeks
- The UK is to scale up coronavirus testing in the coming weeks
- From Tuesday, March 17th, mass gatherings will no longer be provided with emergency workers
- Avoid going to the GP or hospital unless absolutely necessary
- Use NHS Direct website rather than phoning 111

## **WHAT GATHERINGS ARE BEING SUSPENDED?**

- All "non-essential" contact with others and "unnecessary" travel
- People are also being asked to work from home "where they possibly can", and avoid pubs, clubs, theatres and social venues

## **WHY ARE THEY BEING SUSPENDED?**

- Given the assessment of data and mortality projections, the UK felt it was time to increase our defences towards the virus and increase the measures being taken to protect human lives (See data from the [BBC](#) or [The Imperial College of London](#) for more scientific data)
- the purpose of these measures is to save lives (we have a limited supply of intensive care beds which could easily be overwhelmed) - especially the lives of the most vulnerable in our communities
- to ensure the most effective outcome of these measures they should be implemented as stringently as possible

## WHO ARE THE 'AT RISK' GROUPS?

**We are advising those who are at increased risk of severe illness from coronavirus (COVID-19) to be particularly stringent in following social distancing measures.**

This group includes those who are:

- aged 70 or older (regardless of medical conditions)
- under 70 with an underlying health condition listed below (ie anyone instructed to get a flu jab as an adult each year on medical grounds):
  - chronic (long-term) respiratory diseases, such as asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), emphysema or bronchitis
  - chronic heart disease, such as heart failure
  - chronic kidney disease
  - chronic liver disease, such as hepatitis
  - chronic neurological conditions, such as Parkinson's disease, motor neurone disease, multiple sclerosis (MS), a learning disability or cerebral palsy
  - diabetes
  - problems with your spleen – for example, sickle cell disease or if you have had your spleen removed
  - a weakened immune system as the result of conditions such as HIV and AIDS, or medicines such as steroid tablets or chemotherapy
  - being seriously overweight (a body mass index (BMI) of 40 or above)
- those who are pregnant

### **Special guidance for pregnant women:**

Royal College of Nursing - [Advice for pregnant women](#)

### **Additional resources:**

NHS - [Coronavirus](#)

GOV.UK - [Guidance on Social Distancing](#)

