Hi Church,

What an extraordinary situation the world is currently facing. First of all, we are thinking about, empathising with and praying for all those that have been directly affected by this nasty virus. As world leaders, airlines, companies, educational institutes, and sporting leagues across the globe are beginning to make large precautionary decisions, we at Echo Church also need to be aware of our responsibilities as a Church and also as believers and followers of Jesus.

**As Echo Church**

1. To be fully aware and informed of the current status and advice from the Australian Department of Health.

2. To communicate that information with all of our staff, team leaders and congregation members. ([visit here for information](https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert))

3. To continue to review the situation and our response as the situation unfolds.

4. To put in place multiple safety measures to keep people safe. (please see below).

**As believers and followers of Jesus**

1. To continually fix our eyes on Jesus and to remember His word about what is possible for us to experience and release.

2. To not panic and to not come under the spirit of fear. We do this by remembering the promises of God and what he has made available for us to live like.

3. To check in on our neighbours, especially the elderly and the vulnerable.

4. To keep our love on and our kindness at high levels despite what we experience from other people.

John 14:1 - *Don’t let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me.*

Phil 4:6 - *Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.*Psalm 91:1-3 - *Those who live in the shelter of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty. This I declare about the Lord: He alone is my refuge, my place of safety; he is my God, and I trust him. For he will rescue you from every trap and protect you from deadly disease.*

**Safety Measures**

1.  Good hygiene is essential.

– Regularly washing your hands with soap and water;

– Covering your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze;

– Avoiding close contact with those who have been infected;

– Health professionals are suggesting we take care with greeting each other (a smile or wave can be as welcoming as a handshake or a hug at this time).

2. We encourage those who are unwell or experiencing any symptoms to seek medical attention and stay at home until they are well again. ([visit here for symptoms](https://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov))

3.  The Dept of Health has released a fact sheet Information for Parents. If your child is unwell, please may we ask you not to send them to the Kids program. ([click here for information](https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2020/02/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-information-for-parents-novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-information-sheet-for-parents_0.pdf))

4.  If you are unwell and are serving in a Church team, please let your Team Leader know ASAP, so we can organise alternative arrangements and so we can pray and care for you.

As a Church we are passionate about praying and pursuing the Lord for Him to show up and intervene in challenging circumstances, but we are just as passionate about putting in place practical steps.

We love you lots Church, and we know that God is really good and He is currently moving... even if we can’t see it.

We will continue to advise you of any further updates. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us.

**Justin & Leigh Box**

Senior Leaders

