

# CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)

## FAQs – Cancelling of Meetings, Events and Classes



**Audience:** All colleagues

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**Version:** Version #1

### Why is Trinity Health Cancelling or Postponing Events, Meetings and Classes?

- Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated guidance encouraging the cancellation of events to limit potential exposure to COVID-19.
- Trinity Health and its ministries are acting out of an abundance of caution.
- As a health system, it is our priority to put the safety of our patients, colleagues, residents and community members first.

### Can colleagues or clinicians attend or work at a community event sponsored by Trinity Health or one of its ministries?

- Colleagues and clinicians who are employed by Trinity Health or one of its ministries may not attend or work at a community event, even if that event is financially sponsored by Trinity Health or one of its ministries.
- Colleagues should carefully assess attendance in a personal capacity and are strongly advised to follow CDC guidelines.

### How can I always keep 6 feet away from people?

- Guidance to keep 6 feet away from other people is specific to people who are sick. You should avoid close contact with sick people.
- We understand it is not possible to stay 6 feet away from people at work. Out of an abundance of caution, we recommend spacing out in meetings or common spaces, as space allows.

### What about colleagues who work in spaces such as cubicles?

- Work spaces do not apply to the event, meeting and class cancellation. Colleagues are often required to work near each other—especially in direct patient care.
- Colleagues in cubicles are separated by walls or how they face. In these cases, six feet distance is not a requirement because there is additional separation in place.
- Colleagues can help prevent the spread of illness by following these guidelines:
  - Stay home if you are sick.
  - Frequently wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.
- Disinfect work areas often.
- Avoid entering co-worker's work spaces.

### What about mass or religious services?

- When it comes to sacrament of the sick, priests, preferably those on staff who are trained in universal precaution, can exercise prudence (e.g., keeping social distance—6 feet most of the time, except to anoint) and anoint the sick. Pastoral care staff could also provide Eucharist. No outside Eucharistic ministers.
- Distribution of Communion in the hands only:
  - “Given the frequency of direct contact with saliva in the distribution of Holy Communion on the tongue, every consideration should be given by each individual to receive Holy Communion reverently in open hands for the time being.” (Source: Archdiocese of Chicago)

### When will decisions be made about events, meetings and classes after April 30?

We are continually monitoring COVID-19 spread in our country will let you know should recommendations change.