

Sanitization suggestions for Kingdom halls of Jehovah's Witnesses

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Abstract

The COVID-19 (Corona virus infectoin disease 2019) has made it's way to Raleigh, North Carolina and with that bring great health concerns, especially for public spaces such as Churches, Public transit, Gyms, Libraries, Etc. Jehovah's witnesses kingdom halls often bring individuals in close contact with one another due to hugging and hand shaking that is heavily present at many of their meetings. Due to this, Jehovah's witness kingdom halls and those who visit them, have a greater ability to transmit viruses. For extended information, see "COVID-19 Prevention Suggestions for Non-Clinicians".

1. Hand Sanitization

Many people do not wash their hands (up to 70% of people do not), and even if they do it is unlikely they wash them properly (15 seconds or more of scrubbing for corona and other viruses). Therefore it is important that we realize that hand and surface sanitization may be our only defense against corona virus. The two subheadings below will briefly and concisely suggest methods to assure hand and surface sanitization is achieved at kingdom halls.

1.1 Hand Sanitization

(COVID-19, Flu, and other types of viral infections as well as bacteria may be referred to as "Germs" for simplicity and expedience)

Hand Sanitization is an important part of stopping the spread of disease. Reports have shown that alcohol content between 60% and 95% are effective, however newer reports suggest that hand sanitizer must be 70% or greater to fully kill and not simply reduce germs. This is important to note when purchasing hand sanitizer: if the alcohol percentage is not listed, or if it uses another chemical, it is best to use an alternative product.

Many Public buildings such as kingdom halls are pre-equipped with hand sanitization stations, However it's important to note what kind. It is highly recommended during Flu and other infectious disease outbreaks that **Motion Activated Hand sanitization stations be used**. Often times the Pump activated (Any system that requires manual manipulation/activation using hands) sanitization stations may

do more harm than good. Pump activated hand sanitization stations may create a situation in which someone with no germs, now has germs just by the use of the hand sanitization station. Secondly, in terms of hand washing, statistics have shown that posters detailing how to wash hands effectively, and for how long, decrease the risk of disease transmission.

1.1.1 Surface Sanitization. In terms of surface sanitization, it is recommended that Clorox Wipes be used on all hard surfaces. This would include things like doorknobs, Counters, Arms of chairs, Microphones, light switches, soundboards, keyboards, etc.

Door attendants should have the opportunity to wipe down door bars and knobs at every given moment. Realistically However, to prevent continued exposure to potentially costly cell damaging chemicals, and to implement a more simple solution it would be feasible that there be a single, or two individuals with sanitized and clean hands, who have been trained in sanitization procedures, opening the door, to avoid multiple (100s) of individuals from touching the door handles and thereby transmitting the virus.

Furthermore, **light switches**, All doorknobs, Doors, **Microphones, etc.** Must be wiped down with clorox or similar agent before and after every meeting. This has been shown to greatly reduce infection rates.

I recommend the following procedures: Implementation of **multiple** motion activated hand sanitization stations. Soap dispensers replaced with motion activated Soap dispensers. **Implementing Non-Contact methods of greeting**. This would include educating about alternative methods and why we need

to strictly avoid all forms of hand-shaking (even fist bumping) and especially hugging. It's also important to remember that fist bumping can also transmit the disease. The best option to prevent disease transmission is to have **no physical contact at all**. Anti-bacterial wipe down of all surfaces **before and after every meeting**. Training all microphone handlers and attendants sanitization and anti-contact procedures. Equipping attendants and **especially microphone handlers** with gloves. And lastly, **implementing microphone poles** to greatly reduce the amount of people touching the microphone.

References

[1] See: COVID-19 Prevention Suggestions for Non-Clinicians.