



# KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...

**TO:** Kalamazoo County Faith-Based Leaders  
**FROM:** Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department  
**DATE:** March 18, 2020

## Partner in Health:

The COVID-19 virus is a serious concern for older adults and individuals with chronic health conditions. As the situation continues to evolve, the recommendations for social distancing and precautions continue to be the one of the most reliable preventative measures.

We recognize this time of year is a sacred part of many religious practices. Larger gatherings, including through faith based organizations and congregations, can unfortunately cause risk to vulnerable and at risk populations for the spread of the virus. Taking precautions such as social distancing, avoiding crowds, and washing hands frequently for twenty seconds continue to be the standard preventative measures recommended by the Center for Disease Control (CDC).

As the public health department serving Kalamazoo County, we encourage all faith based organizations to review the CDC Resources for Faith –Based Leaders: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/index.html>.

We are here as a tool to assist our neighbors and our community in education, precautions, and prevention. Please review the attached, latest release from the Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department. For up-to-date, reliable local information, please visit our website at: <https://www.kalcounty.com/hcs/covid19.php>.

During this time we are holding a weekly Thursday call at 11:00 a.m. for our all of our community partners. If you would like to be added to our email list for press releases, community partner letters and conference call information, please contact: [pio@kalcounty.com](mailto:pio@kalcounty.com).

Sincerely,

**James A. Rutherford, MPA – Health Officer/Director**

**William Nettleton, MD, MPH – Medical Director**

## HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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