



基督教柏斯宣道會

Perth Alliance Church

Member of Christian & Missionary Alliance of Australia Inc.

Dear Members and Friends of PAC,

The situation in Australia is changing rapidly in regards to the coronavirus (COVID-19). We are sending you this letter to update you on how as a church community we are responding to this pandemic. We will be working to do our best to take good care of our church community, and to do our part in protecting the wider community from the spread of infection, especially those who are most vulnerable and at risk.

At this stage the Australian Government has made a recommendation to limit indoor public meetings to no more than 100 people. However we think it is best to be proactive in taking precautions, and therefore have decided that after this Sunday, i.e. effective from Monday 23rd March, we will be conducting all of our Sunday church services and other public meetings online. Therefore, until further notice, **this Sunday 22nd March will be the last Sunday when we will gather as congregations at our normal places of worship.** We will reassess the situation in a month's time and let you know if anything changes.

While statistically those over 70 are the most susceptible to the virus, we must also remember those with medical conditions who are vulnerable to serious illness caused by the virus. We have a number of elderly and vulnerable people in our church community, in each of the congregations. Even the younger people in our congregations have regular contact with elderly and vulnerable family members. Therefore we must take every precaution to prevent the spread of this virus amongst our members, family members and friends.

In light of advice from the Federal Government and WA Health, we are urging all of you to take some protective measures whenever you meet with other people. We want PAC to be a community in which people feel safe and are looked after. **But before you read these measures, please stop and pray:**

Heavenly Father, Lord of all and our Help in times of trouble,

Guard our hearts from the evil one and from undue fear as we face the uncertainties of the coming weeks, due to the spread of this coronavirus.

Sustain and comfort all who are fearful and struggling, until this sickness passes.

You cause the sun to rise on the evil and good, and you send rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. So please show grace and mercy to all who need you now, those who are afraid or sick, and who are facing uncertainty. In your great mercy, heal the sick, comfort those who have lost loved ones, protect the young, the elderly and the helpless, and deliver any who are in danger. Protect the many health care workers, nurses and doctors on the front-line in hospitals, clinics and aged care homes, seeking to care for and look after the sick. Shelter them from danger in their work; keep them safe from all evil, and give them ongoing courage in their efforts.



Mailing: P.O. Box 956, Cloverdale, 6985, W.A.

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*“God our Saviour, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas, who formed the mountains by your power, having armed yourself with strength, who stilled the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, and the turmoil of the nations. The whole earth is filled with awe at your wonders; where morning dawns, where evening fades, you call forth songs of joy.”
(Psalm 65:5-8) Look with compassion on our broken and sin-sick world at this time, and bring the healing and help we so need. Above all, we thank you that you have given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of the Redeemer and Saviour, Jesus Christ our Lord. So help us, and all who are in need, to look to Him for protection, comfort, relief, healing, strength and hope at this time. Amen.*

What you must do:

- If you have travelled, or are travelling, anywhere overseas we would ask that you self-isolate for 14 days after you arrive back in Australia.
- If you have been in close contact with someone who has recently returned overseas, we would ask that you self-isolate for 14 days.
- If you or your children have recently returned from traveling overseas and are experiencing any flu-like symptoms like shortness of breath, fever, cough or cold, we would ask that you self-quarantine and call your GP before seeking medical attention.
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What we are trying to do:

We are putting in place systems and facilities to enable all of our usual ministry activities and programs to be conducted online. This includes our Sunday Public Worship Services, Friday Night Youth Group, Logos Group, Ignite and Children’s Sunday Schools. However there may be some technical challenges to overcome, so we do ask for your patience.

Out of a desire to love each other and our neighbour, and a desire to be safe, if you do meet with any other brothers and sisters we urge you to adopt the following measures:

- Keep a distance of at least 1.5 metres from other people in the same room.
- Reduce physical contact with surfaces that could be touched by other people (such as door handles, plates, eating utensils, serving spoons and water dispensers/jugs)
- Everyone is encouraged to follow the recommended personal hygiene by WA Department of Health (<https://www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/coronavirus>) which includes washing your hands regularly with soap and water, covering your mouth when coughing or sneezing (cough into your elbow), and minimising physical contact.



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- Please refrain from making physical contact as much as possible e.g. shaking hands, kissing, hugging, high-fiving or other forms of embrace, in line with advice from WA Health.
- If food is being served, please avoid multiple handling of utensils, or shared dishes, unless served by one person to everyone else.

We hope that you'll understand why we are switching to online public meetings, and urging you to take the above measures. We are not primarily trying to protect ourselves, but rather to love and protect those who are most vulnerable. It is important that we do our part to ensure our community stays safe, and that we are being diligent and responsible in caring for the most vulnerable.

Our hope and prayer is that God will use this outbreak to lead many to repentance and faith in Jesus. We pray that he will bring healing for the sick, and strengthen and protect the health workers on the frontline and those who are vulnerable and at risk. In all of this we must remember that God is the One who is in control of everything and sustains all things. He is sovereign and our lives are in his hands. Sickness and disease are a tangible reminder that we live in a broken world and that we are desperately in need of God's grace and mercy. **As a people who have the eternal hope of the gospel this is an opportunity for us to show Christ-like love, service and care for others. Please keep in touch with each other, and look out for opportunities to show kindness and care to friends and neighbours. We need not be fearful, but should be proactive in seeking to love others in need.**

Grace and peace in Christ,

Rolf Van Wollingen
Acting Senior Pastor
On behalf of the Pastoral Team and BOE



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