



# FIRST AFRIKAN CHURCH

## **FAC Preparedness Plan for Coronavirus and Seasonal Influenzas**

The worldwide spread of seasonal influenza-related respiratory illnesses is not new. According to a recent worldwide study led by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), an estimated 290,000 to 650,000 deaths are associated with influenza globally each year (Paget et al., 2019). However, what makes the COVID-19 infection more concerning is its 2% case fatality rate across the globe—the highest influenza case-fatality rate since the 2002 SARS-associated coronavirus pandemic (Potter, 2001; WHO, 2020).

To date, most of the cases reported are mild, and many have recovered from the illness. Health organizations have declared that children and youth tend to handle the virus better than the elderly. Since First Afrikan has a large elderly population, we desire to be proactive as it relates to this virus. Therefore, we will be taking the following precautions to ensure that our church is a safe and healthy environment for all.

This plan is divided into two phases. Phase One is an immediate response that is currently underway. Phase Two, we will initiate if the state or federal government limits public gatherings.

Members who feel the need to remain home currently are invited to join us online. Your health and wellness are of vital importance to us. We want to assure you that we are doing everything possible to make sure that we are proactive in our response to this public health crisis. This action plan is not intended to alarm you. We are people of faith, and we trust God, but we also know that God has given us the intelligence to be prepared; therefore, we will pray and plan. Listed below is our plan of action.

### **Phase One Response** (Immediate Response)

1. All door handles, shared surfaces, light switches, and doorknobs within the church will be sanitized frequently.
2. Hand sanitizer stations and dispensers will be placed at each entryway and supplied in our restrooms. This is not intended to replace hand washing. Please continue to wash hands with soap for 15 to 20 seconds.
3. Members are encouraged to refrain from shaking hands.
4. Members who are experiencing cold or flu-like symptoms will be asked to stay home and view our services online and donate online.
5. During “**Harambee**” invite visitors to stand. Members are asked to stand and greet their neighbors.
6. An informative email will go to the congregation with details on precautions and the church's response plan.

### **Phase Two Response** (If the public health department limits public gatherings)

1. On site services will be postponed until the Public Health Department deems it safe to resume.





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2. Members will be asked to access our Livestream services. Tithes and offering will be made as outlined in step 3a below
3. Pastor Lomax will deliver a Sunday morning devotional via Livestream, which can be accessed through our website [www.firstafrikanchurch.org](http://www.firstafrikanchurch.org).
  - a. Members will also be asked to support the church financially through the following ways
    - i. Paypal \_\_\_\_\_
    - ii. CashApp \_\_\_\_\_
    - iii. Zelle \_\_\_\_\_
    - iv. Website <http://firstafrikanchurch.org/donate-now/>
    - v. Mail via USPS to FAC physical address:  
5197 Salem Road, Lithonia, GA 30038
4. Church events are cancelled.
5. Services will be livestreamed.

May the Peace of Christ be with you,

Rev. Dr. Mark Ogunwale Lomax, Pastor and the  
General Council of Elders (GCE)

