

FAITH COMMUNITIES PARTNERS IN PREPAREDNESS

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January 25, 2010



Public Health and Social Services Department

<http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health>

PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY



H1N1 PANDEMIC

❖ Communication

- Share information through sermons, bulletins, word of mouth, church phone tree

❖ Linkages with vulnerable population

- Create or expand “buddy program” for isolated, vulnerable individuals
- Activate a group to check on those who live alone
- Make sure home visitors are not ill



H1N1 PANDEMIC

- ❖ Adjusting Church activities to provide added protection
 - Find alternate ways of greeting while maintaining social distancing
 - Find alternate ways of giving communion
 - Not sharing communal cup
 - Make sure all servers wash hands thoroughly and are not ill



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H1N1 PANDEMIC

❖ Supporting public health and other local agencies

- Encourage parishioners to get vaccinated
- Ask members of congregation to volunteer
- Share same prevention messages
 - cover cough,
 - wash hands, and
 - stay home when ill



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DISASTERS



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

- ❖ Be prepared - food, water, medications
- ❖ First 72 hours - YOYO (YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN)
- ❖ Buddy up to help someone else
- ❖ Sign up to be a volunteer now
 - Do not wait for an emergency
 - Join other volunteers in training and preparedness so you can help immediately



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CHURCH ACTIVITIES

- ❖ Community service
 - Emergency shelter
 - Hygiene stations
 - Feeding programs
- ❖ Parish nursing
- ❖ Church services - greetings, communion
- ❖ Encourage persons who are ill to stay home, includes church home visitors



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RESOURCES

❖ Emergency Preparedness Guide

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/phepr/handbook.htm>

❖ Local Health Agencies

- <http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health>
- <http://www.co.mason.wa.us/health/index.php>
- <http://lewiscountywa.gov/publichealth>



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