

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response

As the situation with CORONAVIRUS (also known as COVID-19) continues to evolve, New Hope Compassionate Ministries is proactively taking measures to ensure that our hunger relief resources and services continue to be available to individuals and families facing need in Anchorage. Currently, our Food Market, Celebrate Recovery, and Saturday Church programs will remain open and continue as such with the utmost caution and preparedness to ensure that children, seniors, limited-resourced families, and others who need it—have food critical to their health and well-being.

New Hope Compassionate Ministries is asking all visitors to our facility to take the following precautions to minimize and hopefully stop the spread of COVID-19 and other viruses:

- Stay home if you are feeling ill.
- Wash your hands thoroughly throughout the day with soap and water. This is the most effective way of preventing illness. The Center for Disease Control recommends lathering soap onto the backs of your hands, in between your fingers and under your nails for 20 seconds and to hum the “Happy Birthday” song twice).
- Use alcohol-based hand sanitizers, it’s not as effective as washing your hands with soap and water, but it is helpful.
- Turn away from others when sneezing and coughing and do so into a disposable tissue and discard. Use your elbow only if you have to.
- Avoid touching your nose, eyes, and/or mouth.
- Avoid handshaking! Use instead a fist bump, a nod, or an elbow bump.
- Use ONLY your knuckle to touch light switches, printer buttons, etc.
- Open doors with your closed fist or hip – do not grasp the handle with your hand, unless there is no other way to open the door.

New Hope Compassionate Ministries is still open and operating under normal business hours, however, the following proactive and voluntary steps will help reduce contact and/or spread of COVID-19:

- Volunteers and staff are encouraged to stay home if you feel sick with fever, cough, or difficulty breathing until symptoms are gone for 24hrs.
- Reinforce the importance of wearing gloves when handling food products and continue to provide them to volunteers and staff.
- **Limiting access to the Food Market by providing prepackaged groceries to all clients through the end of March. We will be following closely the development of the COVID-19 situation.**
- And of course, we’re increasing the frequency of cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing in our building.

We take very seriously the health and safety of our clients, volunteers, and staff. We believe that we also provide a vital service to the community. We will be monitoring closely the developments of the COVID-19 pandemic and will be adjusting our response accordingly.

For more information on COVID-19, please visit the Federal [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](https://www.cdc.gov) website and the [Municipality of Anchorage](https://www.municipalityofanchorage.org) website. Both websites are updated daily with the latest information and advice for the public. For more information on COVID-19 in various languages, please visit the [Refugee Development Center’s](https://www.refugeedevelopmentcenter.org) website.

For the most up-to-date information on any additional response from New Hope Compassionate Ministries, please check our [website](http://www.newhopepeak.org), [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/newhopepeak), or [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/newhopepeak) channels

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