

Caritas and COVID – 19

The health and safety of everyone who comes through the doors of our pantry is our primary concern. We are taking precautions necessary to keep our clients, volunteers and staff safe. This is a fluid situation, and we will continue to adapt and make changes to our standard operating procedures as needed.

Our current food pantry protocols include *(as of March 14, 2020)*:

- **Food pantry hours** will remain unchanged
- Proper hygiene promoted (see below) among volunteers, neighbors and staff – and all are encouraged to stay home if feeling sick
- Gloves and hand sanitizer (when available) are readily accessible to all and required for anyone handling produce
- Disinfection of commonly touched areas of each shopping cart thoroughly with wipes after each use
- Frequent sanitizing of reception areas, door handles, keyboards, work surfaces, pens and other items exposed to touch
- **Limitations** on the number of neighbors (**20**) allowed into the **lobby** at any one time
- **Try to have just the head of household come to the pantry.** To reduce exposure
- Waiting-room chairs have been moved farther apart to decrease proximity between neighbors

**IF YOU ARE SICK, IN CONSIDERATION FOR YOURSELF AND OTHERS,
PLEASE STAY HOME**

The CDC recommends the following to help prevent the spread of COVID-19:

- Frequent washing of hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, and — if soap and water are not readily available — use of hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol
- Covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue or using the inside of the elbow
- Cleaning frequently touched objects and surfaces
- Staying home when sick

We will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates through our website, social media, and voicemail system as necessary. Thank you for your support and understanding during this time.