



COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE & BEST PRACTICES

FOR OUTREACH PROGRAMS

TIPS FOR EVERYONE



- Food should not be passed from hand to hand—please take all possible precautions to limit human contact with food
- All surfaces with which clients and volunteers come into contact should be regularly washed and disinfected
- If possible, food distribution should occur outside or in as large and unconfined a space as possible. Think creatively about getting food distributed safely: can you create a makeshift drive-thru? Home delivery? Pick-up appointment times?

FEEDING PROGRAMS

Meals should be pre-packaged by a limited number of staff members or volunteers and should be served “to-go”



FOOD PANTRIES



- Meal-kits should be pre-packaged by a limited number of staff or volunteers
- Pantries should pause “client-choice” operational models and move to pre-packed/pre-selected kits or use a remote choice system (choices can be made online or by phone to limit contact between people and with food)
- Advise clients or provide educational materials about appropriate hygiene and precautionary measures for their food. All outer packaging should be disposed of, all produce should be washed thoroughly before consuming, etc.

- Stay informed by following all recommendations and requirements posted by your local health department www.naccho.org/membership/lhd-directory
- Stay informed about local COVID-19 information and updates at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/index.html





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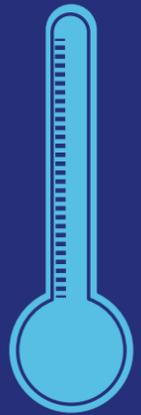
FOR VOLUNTEERS



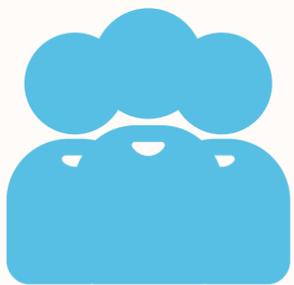
Volunteers who belong to vulnerable populations (the elderly or immuno-compromised) should not be onsite to volunteer at this time and should continue practicing social distancing and other precautionary measures. There may be possibilities to find other ways for these volunteers to contribute - monetary donations, remote administrative support, purchasing supplies, etc.

WHAT TO DO IF A VOLUNTEER IS UNWELL

- If a volunteer becomes sick after they have served at your program, they must report this to both the priest in charge of the parish they served in and to Episcopal Charities.
- If a volunteer shows any symptoms or feels unwell in any way, they should continue to practice social distancing and not volunteer at outreach programs.



BEST VOLUNTEERING PRACTICES



- Volunteer groups should be kept to small sizes if possible. Think critically and carefully about how many volunteers you need to meet your community needs fully and safely.
- While serving at your program, volunteers should be widely spaced apart. The CDC recommends a distance of at least 6 feet.
- Volunteers should wash their hands frequently and thoroughly, in accordance with best practices.
- Volunteers should wear gloves and masks when handling food.

- Stay in close contact with your volunteers and ask for feedback frequently and as soon as possible:
How do your volunteers feel the program is going?
Do they feel safe continuing to give their time?
What other measures can you put in place to ensure the safety of your clients/guests and volunteers?
- Stay informed about local COVID-19 information and updates at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/index.html

