

EVANGELICAL CHURCH MBABANE RESPONSE TO COVID-19 OUTBREAK



God is Still in Control – “Akukho Lokumhamba Ngemuva”

2 Chronicles 7:13-15 *‘Whenever I hold back the rain or send locusts to eat up the crops or send an epidemic on my people, if they pray to me and repent and turn away from the evil they have been doing, then I will hear them in heaven, forgive their sins, and make their land prosperous again. I will watch over this Temple and be ready to hear all the prayers that are offered here,*

- The one thing that we are sure of as the Evangelical Church is that God is still in control.
- Even during this time, we shall continue to seek God’s face, fast and pray
- We have faith that The Lord Almighty will heal and restore our land.

What is Happening in The World Today?

“The Kingdom of Eswatini, like the rest of the World, is confronted by a stubborn pandemic that threatens the health and wellbeing of our Nation as it relentlessly spreads across the Globe at an alarming rate. While Eswatini has one confirmed COVID-19 case at this moment, we are seized with the responsibility to protect our citizens from a scourge which knows no boundaries and continues to unfold in an unprecedented manner and speed.” - Right Honorable Prime Minister Ambrose Mandvulo Dlamini, Declaration Of National Emergency In Response To Coronavirus, 17 March 2020

The Evangelical Church Mbabane Board has prepared the following information for the benefit of Church members.

What is COVID -19?

Coronaviruses (CoV) are a large family of viruses that cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-CoV) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS-CoV). Common signs of infection include respiratory symptoms, fever, cough, shortness of breath and breathing difficulties. In more severe cases, infection can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome, kidney failure and even death.

How to minimise the spread of COVID-19?

Based on the current knowledge of COVID-19 and evidence available on other viral respiratory pathogens.

Simple measures can reduce the spread of the virus.

1 PERSONAL PROTECTIVE MEASURES

Practice proper hand hygiene



Cough and sneeze into your elbow or a tissue. Throw it into a bin and wash your hands



Healthy people **do not** need to wear masks



Masks should be reserved for healthcare workers and those who care for ill persons at home.

2 ENVIRONMENTAL MEASURES



Frequently clean used surfaces, clothes and objects



Minimise sharing objects



Ensure appropriate ventilation

3 SOCIAL DISTANCING MEASURES

Standing 1 metre away from a visibly symptomatic person



Self-isolation of individuals **with symptoms** of a respiratory infection is one of the most important measures for **reducing disease transmission** and limiting the spread of the virus in the community during an epidemic.

For travel advice or travel recommendations refer to official government advice.

For More Information, you may visit:

- **WHO Coronavirus:** <https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus>
- **UNICEF Coronavirus disease (COVID-19):** What you need to know about the virus to protect you and your family - <https://www.unicef.org/coronavirus/covid-19>

- **Key Messages and Actions for COVID-19 Prevention and Control in Schools March 2020** - <https://waterford.sz/coronavirus/UNICEF%20Document.pdf>

Eswatini's Position on COVID-19

His Majesty King Mswati III and Ingwenyama invoked section 29 of the Disaster Management Act 2006 to DECLARE A NATIONAL EMERGENCY IN RESPONSE TO CORONAVIRUS; having assessed the magnitude and severity of the outbreak of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic confirmed world over, with immediate effect for a period not exceeding two (2) months.

Proposed Prevention Measures by The Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini

- Keep the home environment clean and safe. Disinfect all high touch surfaces regularly and ensure proper ventilation.
- Stop shaking hands and use other non touch methods of greeting.
- Maintain a distance of at least 1 metre from each other.
- Wash hands regularly with running water and soap or use alcohol based sanitisers
- Create habits and reminders to avoid touching your face (mouth, nose, eyes) and cover coughs and sneezes.
- Take care of the vulnerable, especially senior citizens and those with underlying respiratory conditions who are more susceptible to the coronavirus infection.
- If you experience flu like symptoms (fever, difficulty breathing, cough, high temperature) visit your nearest health centre facility or call the Emergency Medical Services Toll free line 977.

As a result of this declaration, there are some restrictions that are in place to limit the spread of the virus. One of the restrictions is that *"all public and private gatherings attracting 50 or more people are suspended until further notice. These include conferences, funerals, weddings, entertainment, sporting activities, etc."*

What Does this mean for the Evangelical Church Mbabane?

In response to this declaration, the Evangelical Church Mbabane Board has resolved to have the following measures for Sunday, 22 March 2020:

1. Sunday Services

- (a) Conduct Sunday Service sessions in groups not exceeding 50 people at one time.
- (b) These will take place within the Church premises.
- (c) The service will last for 1 hour per session.
- (d) The following groups will fellowship at different times based on the members' registered place of residence:

SERVICE TIMES	GROUPS BY AREA OF RESIDENCE
8.30 AM to 9.30 AM	Msunduzi / PTS / Macobolwane / Mncitsini
9.45 AM to 10.45 AM	Thembelihle / Sandla / Town / Queensgate
11 AM to 12 PM	Nkoyoyo / Ngwenya / Hawane / Malkerns / Matsapha / Manzini / Ngwane Park / Mbangweni / Ezulwini / Mnyamatsini / Mangwaneni / Bahai / Malagwane
12.15 PM to 13.15 PM	Mpolonjeni / Stibeni / Sidwashini / Manzana / Checkers / Makholokholo / Pine Valley / Dalriach East / Mbuluzi / Fontein / Mahwalala / Mvakwelitje / Nkwadini

- (e) Children's ministry will conduct lessons concurrently.

2. Fellowship Services

All fellowships and prayer services are expected to continue at their normal times; with the leaders ensuring that there is a maximum number of 50 people during that fellowship meeting.

3. Offering

- (a) Church Members are encouraged to bring offering to the services.
- (b) Alternatively, members are encouraged to deposit or transfer offerings the following bank account

- i. Bank: Standard Bank Eswatini
- ii. Account Name: Evangelical Church Mbabane
- iii. Account No: 9110004051796
- iv. Branch Code: 663164

(c) **Please ensure that you reference your deposits for purposes of accounting.**

4. Use of Technology

(a) Make recorded sermons by our pastor available via the Church website -
<http://www.evangelicalchurchmbabane.net/>

(b) YouTube Channel & Facebook Account has been setup for purposes of broadcasting recorded sermons by our pastor.

(c) **YouTube Link** -

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/Uct45cMp6V4JSaeEP9b9pE6g/>

(d) **Facebook Link** - <https://www.facebook.com/Evangelical-Church-Mbabane-106655337641521/>

5. Preventative Measures

The following interventions will be put in place:

- (a) Hand washing stations.
- (b) Ensure that chairs are minimum 1m apart.
- (c) Have sanitizers for microphones.
- (d) Plus any other measures that can assist.

Further mitigation measures will be communicated to members by Thursday, 26 March 2020.

By Church Board Chairman

Mbuso Simelane

20 March 2020