

Re: Important COVID-19 Updates for the New Market Seventh-day Adventist Church

Dear Church Family –

As COVID-19 continues its progress in the valley, new needs and new ministry possibilities are coming to the surface. Please note the following two items carefully:

1. **The governor of Virginia has banned most public gatherings of 100 or more people, including church services.** Additionally, the CDC is now recommending—not mandating at this point, but recommending—that the peak gathering number be reduced to 50 people for the next eight weeks (see <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/mass-gatherings-ready-for-covid-19.html> for more details). This of course will impact our ability to conduct our worship services in the normal fashion. Please check the church website throughout the week at [www.newmarketadventist.org](http://www.newmarketadventist.org) for updates on what will and will not happen on coming Sabbaths.

2. **A New Ministry is Born: “We Deliver”** Because of the threat of COVID-19, many senior members and others of our congregation may not feel comfortable carrying out normal activities such as grocery shopping, picking up medications at a pharmacy, etc. Previously, our church’s Senior Family Ministries (directed by Rita Miller, Mary Farrow, and Charlotte Ishkanian) has assisted with such things. However, with the expected increased need caused by COVID-19, we are now starting a new ministry. Since I am the one writing this email, I am now naming this new ministry “**We Deliver**”!

Consequently, we are asking for the following:

- **Volunteers: Would you be willing to join We Deliver to help other members with such things as picking up groceries (which may include actual shopping in the store), pharmacy runs, etc.?** If so, please contact the church office at your earliest convenience (540-740-8550 or [nmchurch@shentel.net](mailto:nmchurch@shentel.net)). Following approval, you will be added to the We Deliver volunteer roster. The qualifications are at least as follows: You are physically healthy, with zero COVID-19 symptoms (if you’re not sure or wonder if you might have such symptoms, do not volunteer); you have not recently traveled out of the country; you have your own transportation; and you are willing to practice common-sense health precautions to minimize the risk of becoming a transmitter of COVID-19 (hand washing/sanitizing, etc.). **Thanks in advance for your willingness to help!**

- **Seniors and/or those with compromised immune systems: Do you need assistance? Would you like help with grocery/medication pickup or other errands?** If so, please contact the church office at 540-740-8550 or [nmchurch@shentel.net](mailto:nmchurch@shentel.net). The office will match you with volunteers that can help! The office or a We Deliver/Senior Family Ministries leader will contact you, let you know who is coming, and approximately when.

**Please note:** We realize that We Deliver will potentially mean that money will need to be entrusted to the volunteers carrying out this service. We are taking precautions to make sure that

this is an honest and transparent process, and will share specific details about this with those who participate in this ministry.

**Also: Do you know someone in our congregation that could benefit from We Deliver, but who does not have internet access?** If so, please pass this information on to them at your earliest convenience.

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and **He will** direct your paths” (Proverbs 3:5 & 6). Our God is indeed able! Let’s continue to work together as a church family to serve as He would serve in this time of need.

Pastor Shane

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P.S. In case you haven’t seen it yet, here is the CDC’s very informative site on COVID-19:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>