


14 April 2020 - Salt Lake City | Summary Page


### Church continues to closely monitor developments

***This article is frequently updated with new information. Note time stamps for most recent additions.***

This page provides updates on how COVID-19 (coronavirus) is impacting The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and its global membership. The Church is monitoring developments and taking steps to comply with best practices and direction provided by public health organizations of various national governments.



**Russell M. Nelson**  
about a week ago



God "has all power, all wisdom, and all understanding; he comprehendeth all things, and he is a merciful Being, even unto salvation, to those who will repent and believe on his name" (Alma 26:35).

So, during times of deep distress, as when illness reaches pandemic proportions, the most natural thing for us to do is to call upon our Heavenly Father and His Son—the Master Healer—to show forth Their marvelous power to bless the people of the earth.

As I mentioned in general conf... [See More](#)

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**See how COVID-19 is impacting Saints worldwide. Click the links below to read the latest.**

**Also see updates in other languages.**

- **Church Aid** (Updated April 14 at 4 p.m. MDT)
- **Church Distribution Retail Stores** (Updated April 10)
- **Church Educational System (CES)** (Updated March 12)
- **Church Historic Sites** (Updated March 16)
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- **Preventative Measures for Members** (Updated in February)
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- **Sacrament Meetings, Stake Conferences and Other Gatherings** (Updated March 12)
- **Temple Square** (Updated March 14)
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- **The Tabernacle Choir at Temple Square** (Updated March 13)

- [Welfare and Self-Reliance Operations](#) (Updated March 17)

### **Church Aid** (Updated April 14 at 4 p.m. MDT)

On April 14, the First Presidency announced an ongoing global effort to address the COVID-19 pandemic. Among the many projects underway, Church resources and volunteers are being used to help make much-needed face masks and other protective equipment for frontline health care workers. To date, the Church has approved over 110 COVID-19 relief projects in 57 countries. [Read more.](#)

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### **Church Distribution Retail Stores** (Updated April 10)

The launch of new temple ceremonial clothing, which was [originally scheduled for March 31, 2020](#), is delayed due to the pandemic. The Church will make the new ceremonial clothing available through the online store and retail outlets at a later date.

Most Church Distribution retail stores are closed. The following Distribution retail and Deseret Book stores remain open where local governments are not requiring COVID-19 restrictions.

*Distribution retail stores that are open with limited hours (unless otherwise noted):*

- Cotonou, Benin
- Hong Kong (regular hours)
- Jakarta, Indonesia
- Liberia
- Lome, Togo
- Pago Pago, American Samoa (regular hours)
- Praia, Cape Verde
- Sierra Leone
- Star Valley, Wyoming
- Taipei, Taiwan (regular hours)

*Deseret Book stores that are open with curbside service only:*

- American Fork, Utah
- Ammon, Idaho
- Boise, Idaho
- Bountiful, Utah
- Cedar City, Utah
- Clinton, Utah
- Costa Mesa, California
- Draper, Utah
- Fort Union, Utah
- Idaho Falls, Idaho
- Lake Oswego, Oregon
- Las Vegas, Nevada
- Layton, Utah
- Logan, Utah
- Ogden, Utah
- Orem Parkway, Utah
- Pocatello, Idaho
- Rexburg, Idaho (
- Riverton, Utah
- Spanish Fork, Utah
- St. George, Utah
- Sugarhouse, Utah
- Twin Falls, Idaho
- University Village, Utah
- Valley Fair, Utah
- West Jordan, Utah

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### **CES Guidelines** *(Updated March 12)*

The leadership of the Church Educational System has adopted **temporary guidelines** which will be effective March 16, 2020.

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### **Church Historic Sites** *(Updated March 16)*

All Church historic sites are closed.

### **Church Workforce** *(Updated March 16)*

Employees of the Church should follow the guidelines provided [here](#) and any other direction provided by their area presidency.

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### **For the Strength of Youth Conferences** *(Updated April 13)*

#### *2020 FSY Conferences in the U.S. and Canada Postponed Until 2021*

Due to the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, For the Strength of Youth (FSY) conferences scheduled to be held in the U.S. and Canada in 2020 have been postponed until 2021. Stakes invited to attend FSY conferences in 2020 will now attend in 2021. An updated schedule of FSY conferences to be held in the U.S. and Canada in 2021–23 can be [found here](#).

All participant payments for FSY registration fees will be automatically refunded on or before April 30, 2020. The refund will be processed on the card used for payment of the fees when registering. If the card used at registration is no longer valid, the participant will receive a refund check mailed to the address associated with their registration. Some credit card processors may take up to 14 days after the refund is processed to post the refund to the card account.

Outside of the U.S. and Canada, Area Presidencies will provide guidance on whether FSY conferences will be held. These decisions will be made in accordance with COVID-19 guidelines established by governments in their communities and countries. Additional information about FSY conferences is available at [FSY.ChurchofJesusChrist.org](https://www.fsy.churchofjesuschrist.org).

All leaders should continue to abide by the direction given [March 12, 2020](#), by the First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve Apostles—namely, that all public gatherings of Church members, including branch, ward, and stake activities, are temporarily suspended worldwide.

### **General Conference** *(Updated March 19)*

In a letter March 19 to Latter-day Saints around the globe, the First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve Apostles announced additional updates to the April 2020 general conference. Each session will be broadcast from a small auditorium on Temple Square. The First Presidency will preside and conduct those sessions, and only those who have been invited to speak or pray will attend. The music for the conference has been pre-recorded. Latter-day Saints will participate digitally. [Read the complete letter](#).

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### **Missionary Work** *(Updated April 1)*

Missionaries are in the process of returning to their home nations. This applies to all areas except Europe and Europe East. In addition, U.S. citizens serving in Canada will remain in Canada, and Canadians serving in the U.S. will remain in the U.S.

In a letter sent March 31, 2020, the First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve Apostles outlined temporary adjustments to missionary service. New service options are available for current and prospective missionaries. [See the letter and an accompanying table of adjustments](#).

As of March 30, 2020, two missionaries are known to have contracted COVID-19. Moving forward, the Church will rely on public health agencies and individuals to make these notifications.

Each missionary who returns home is asked to self-isolate for 14 days following instructions from the World Health Organization and the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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### **Preventative Measures for Members**

For all Church members, there is wisdom in taking steps to remain healthy during this cold and flu season. These precautions include\*:

- Regularly and thoroughly wash your hands with soap and water or clean them with an alcohol-based hand rub.

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick (this may include avoiding shaking hands or other customary greetings).
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Maintain at least six feet (two meters) distance between yourself and anyone who is coughing or sneezing.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Follow public health agency recommendations for using a face mask.

*\*Based on recommendations from the World Health Organization and the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*

Local leaders should encourage members to follow these guidelines.

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### **RootsTech London** *(Updated March 13)*

FamilySearch International announced that the RootsTech conference planned for London in November 2020 will be postponed until autumn 2021. [Read more.](#)

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### **Sacrament Meetings, Stake Conferences and Other Large Gatherings** *(Updated March 12)*

Church leaders also sent a letter to Saints on March 12 that says [worship services worldwide are temporarily suspended](#). Local leaders will counsel to determine how to make the sacrament available to members at least once a month.

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### **Temple Square** *(Updated March 14)*

All public areas of the following Church-owned buildings in and around Temple Square closed, effective 5:00 p.m. MDT on Friday March 13. The closures will remain in effect until further notice.

- Conference Center
- Assembly Hall
- Tabernacle
- North Visitors' Center
- Family History Library
- Church History Museum
- Relief Society Building
- Church Office Building
- Beehive House
- Church History Library
- Joseph Smith Memorial Building (including restaurants)
- Lion House

The construction work on the Salt Lake Temple will continue as planned. At Welfare Square, operations will remain open, but public tours are temporarily discontinued going forward.

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### **Temple Worship** *(Updated March 25)*

In a [letter](#) issued March 25, 2020, the First Presidency announced it will temporarily close all temples. Temple staff will contact all patrons with an existing appointment to confirm cancellation. When temples resume activity, patrons should contact the temple to reschedule their living ordinances. Members with additional questions are invited to visit with their bishop or stake president.

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### **The Tabernacle Choir at Temple Square** *(Updated March 13)*

Consistent with the direction provided by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to temporarily postpone large public gatherings in areas challenged by the COVID-19 virus, the Choir organization has cancelled several concerts and made changes to its public broadcasts and rehearsals. [See this page for details.](#)

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## **Welfare and Self-Reliance Operations** *(Updated March 17)*

### *Deseret Industries*

Deseret Industries stores are adjusting their services to support community health. Beginning Wednesday, March 18, stores will be closed to the general public for shopping and donations but will remain open to support the needs of individuals served by bishops' orders and community partner grants. Stores will be open Tuesday, March 17, until 6:00 p.m. MDT.

Employees of Deseret Industries who are in low-risk demographics may be transferred to support the work of bishops' storehouses and food processing operations to backfill any staff or volunteers from those facilities who are in a higher risk category and, out of an abundance of caution, remain at home. These closures and transfers are temporary. Updated information will be provided as this situation evolves.

### [Additional Resources](#)

STYLE GUIDE NOTE: When reporting about The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, please use the complete name of the Church in the first reference. For more information on the use of the name of the Church, go to our online [Style Guide](#).