



March 11, 2020

GLIDE Responds to Coronavirus

Dear GLIDE Friends, Family and Colleagues,

The most important thing that GLIDE can do right now, our greatest act of care in this moment, is to focus our efforts on limiting exposure and reducing the risk of transmission of the coronavirus (COVID-19).

Our number one priority is to protect our entire community, including our staff and those we serve every day. Fortunately, at this time, we are able to do that while still providing essential services to those most in need.

We continue to take proactive steps, in line with recommendations and guidelines issued by health experts and in coordination with other community-based organizations, to maintain our critical services to the community while realizing every precaution to reduce the risk of exposure to our clients, staff and the general public.

As the situation evolves in the coming days and weeks, we will send further updates on the status of our operations on behalf of the community.

Here are the steps we are currently taking:

Sunday Celebration has temporarily moved to an online experience.

- We will be holding our Sunday Celebrations this week and next (March 15 and March 22) online only. We ask that you join us for Sunday Celebration through GLIDE's Facebook Livestream page only. If you would like to be added to our Church email list for Church-specific updates, please sign up [here](#).
- For our unsheltered neighbors who are used to gathering for simulcast Celebrations in Freedom Hall, we will be with them curbside at Taylor Gate, offering connection, safety information, hot coffee and danishes, and community.

Our Volunteer Program is temporarily paused.

- We are pausing our request for volunteers until March 20, to be evaluated each week thereafter.

Other program modifications, effective immediately, are as follows:

Daily Free Meals

- We continue to offer three meals daily. We have modified our service to provide to-go meals only, and have temporarily closed our dining rooms.

Walk-In Center

- Shelter bed reservations continue through GLIDE but to avoid congregating in the building we are managing reservations from a triage desk in the lobby. The desk is also handling quick transactional services (such as dispensing hygiene kits). Clients who need more involved services will pass to the Walk-In Center offices for one-on-one support.

Harm Reduction

- All off-site testing events have been paused to avoid crowding, in favor of one-by-one testing. Syringe Access Services continue onsite as a vital preventative service continuity. Outreach continues as well, with outreach workers ready to distribute extra antiseptic towelettes.

Childcare

- Our Family, Youth and Childcare Center (FYCC), located in its own secure building on Ellis St., is operating in very close coordination with the City's Department of Children, Youth and Their Families (DCYF) and other relevant agencies. We have prepared plans to deal with contingencies, including hard-working and extremely-low-income parents who have to work even when they are under the weather and may wish to drop their children off at FYCC (which will not be allowed).

Sanitation and cleaning

- Two handwashing stations are being placed in GLIDE's parking lot to serve guests of the Daily Free Meals program temporarily situated outside.
- Extra janitorial shifts and deep cleanings to sanitize the premises have been established for GLIDE's two buildings and their immediate surroundings.

Community Safety Team

- We are increasing trainings and review for our frontline Community Safety staff so that they can most effectively and humanely respond to clients in crisis.

Staff health and wellbeing

- GLIDE has modified our human resource policies to ensure the safety, health and wellbeing of our staff and their families.

Ways you can help

- Stay informed, take the recommended precautions to keep yourself and your community safe, and stay involved!

Please also consider making a gift to GLIDE today to ensure we can continue to care for those most in need while working to prevent the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).

[**Donate to GLIDE's COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund**](#)

In gratitude,



Karen Hanrahan
President and Chief Executive Officer, GLIDE Foundation