

SANDY SPRING FRIENDS MEETING CLERK'S MESSAGE REGARDING MEETING  
ACTIVITIES DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

3/12/2020, 6:33 PM

**Friends,**

**Meetings for worship itself will continue, subject to limitations as already established:** no shaking hands at the end. Whoever sits head of meeting will simply ask that we greet each other verbally. Friends will use their judgment, trusting each other to wash hands frequently and stay away if sick.

**All social activities (simple meal, coffees, Thursday's potluck, etc) are canceled for this month,** subject to renewal next month depending on circumstances.

As suggested by the clerk of RE, **first day school is canceled this month,** also subject to renewal next month depending on circumstances.

**Committees are encouraged to meet via zoom or other virtual space.** Committees are strongly encouraged to restrict their activities in a way that supports minimizing large gatherings.

We are stepping back to minimal gathering as a way of supporting each other during a time when large gatherings carry the danger of contributing to a worsening pandemic. Keeping our distance from each other keeps the community healthy.

**It is likely that people in our community will get the virus.** For many friends the correct response to this risk will be to stay home and away from all activities, including meeting for worship. We support friends who do this. We have so far not received advice that would lead us to believe a gathering the size of a usual meeting for worship to be a particular risk greater than life as generally led by most people even when practicing social distance, so long as friends use common sense hygiene and don't come if they are sick. The advice could change, perhaps quickly, and we will update as needed.

**For now, the sense of the meeting as far as I am able to discern is that all activities should be conducted in a way that promotes the concept of social distance. For now, the doors to meeting for worship remain open because our plan is to move through them as carefully as we do through the rest of our lives during this difficult time, staying distant from each other as possible, and keeping contact brief when it is necessary.**

**Sam**