

## DECEMBER EMPLOYEE UPDATE (12/22/20)



**Travel:** employee travel to states on Ohio's Travel Advisory List still requires prior written approval and would require a 14-day quarantine upon your return. As of today, no employee has requested to travel to one of these states, so none should be doing so for Christmas: SD, PA, KS, IA, MS, TX, UT, TN, NV, OK, AR, MO, and AZ. Additionally, as has been the case for over a month, many cities, counties, and states have issued travel advisories and restrictions aimed at discouraging holiday travel. Be smart... stay home! Please do not travel, and please keep your holiday celebrations as small and as safe as possible.

**Family First Coronavirus Response Act:** The sick leave and extended family leave provided by this federal Act expire on December 31. However, the stimulus act passed by Congress this weekend appears to support voluntarily continuing it through March 31, which we will do. However, if you have already used the maximum amount of leave, the extension does not change that limit. Going forward, we ask you to continue to exercise caution at work and around personal choices to reduce your risk of exposure and transmission and the risk of your colleagues and those we serve.

**Work Policies:** continue to follow all COVID related policies... pretend everyone you encounter has COVID and behave accordingly... no passengers in your car during work time except by specific exception EVERY TIME... ask about symptoms and recent COVID tests of the client/employee/patient/student *and their household members* EVERY TIME you have a face to face encounter... unless you are alone in a private office or alone in a private vehicle you must wear a mask; reception areas/ front desks are not private offices, and masks must be worn the entire time there or in any common areas whether or not someone is present in the vicinity, BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR as well as UM policy... reception staff must ensure that who enter the site take and record their temperature and answer the screening questions.

**Vaccine:** I will be taking a break from the Wednesday Wellness messages until the new year, but at that time will begin to offer information about the COVID vaccine, including benefits/risks, and hopefully information about its roll-out and schedule of availability in Ohio.

**Christmas:** we regret that we have been unable to gather as we normally would, for Christmas lunches or after-work parties, our various ministry site traditions. Please know that we are no less grateful for and mindful of your presence with us in ministry. Next year... twice as much spinach dip and extra Handel's pops! For now, I pray that we each experience some of the grace that a simpler, quieter Christmas season can bring.

Christmas blessings to you all,  
And prayers for a joyful NEW year,

*Brigid*

