Ingathering Guidance Regarding COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

As the news and action around the COVID-19 virus continues to evolve, we want to provide guidance to Key Leaders and Site Coordinators around Spring 2020 Ingatherings. Our priority is the health and safety of the volunteers and donors involved in these events. Please take the following guidelines into consideration as you prepare for your collections. **Even with these in hand, your primary source for information on this changing situation is the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) ([www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html))**

1. Any volunteer (including Key Leaders and Site Coordinators!) who is not feeling well or who has been in recent contact with someone who is ill should stay home.

2. If you have leadership responsibilities, plan now to bring one or two other people (who don’t live in your house) on-board who can back you up should you need to stay home during the Ingathering. Schedule backup volunteers who can jump in last-minute if anyone from your starting lineup must cancel.

3. Limit contact during the Ingathering itself. When donors arrive with their boxes, share verbal greetings but avoid handshakes or hugs. Prioritize transfer of quilts and kits from vehicles to the truck so that donors can be on their way as quickly as possible. Strive to maintain a distance of 6’ between individuals. Two possible ways to approach this:
   a. Ask donors to remain in the car while volunteers transfer boxes from trunks and truck beds.
   b. Ask volunteers to remain in the back of the truck or inside the rail car and have donors transfer boxes from their vehicle to the edge of the container.

If your Ingathering traditionally includes space and time for fellowship (sharing snacks, resources, fabric for quilts, etc.), we strongly recommend skipping those elements this year.

4. Ensure that volunteers wear gloves when loading trucks or rail cars (thin work gloves will be better than disposable gloves, which will not hold up well handling boxes). Provide an adequate supply of hand sanitizer at the load site. Set a timer or alarm on your phone to regularly cycle volunteers — including yourself — inside to wash hands (every 30 minutes at the most).

If you elect to postpone your collection, LWR staff are on call and equipped to assist you with brainstorming solutions, adjusting logistics, and communicating changes to your community.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to Janel Johnson-Momanyi at any time at 410-230-6701 or JJohnson-Momanyi@lwr.org.

We are deeply grateful for your partnership, and for your flexibility and creativity during this challenge.