

## **Guidelines for WTS Internship, Collaborative, and TEEM Students for the COVID-19 Pandemic**

Peace to you this day, Wartburg Theological Seminary (WTS) Interns! As an integral part of the Wartburg community, we are concerned about your health and well-being, especially during this time.

As you know, we are living in a time of rapid change, now more than ever. We receive updates almost hourly that impact decisions affecting the way we live and work together. We are monitoring this information closely, with our COVID-19 Task Force (Cabinet) holding daily meetings to discuss updated information, what we are doing, and what we anticipate doing. We intend to do what we can to preserve health, minimize the spread of the virus, and decrease anxiety where possible. *Care for one another during this time is our top priority!* We offer the following guidelines:

### **Beginning Monday, March 23, 2020:**

1. Be conscientious about how you interact with others in the workplace. Practice social distancing until further notice. This includes, but may not be limited to the following:
  - a. Work from home whenever possible.
  - b. Limit close contact with others as much as possible.
  - c. Maintain about 6 feet between yourself and others when with people other than those with whom you share a home.
  - d. Avoid social gatherings of 10 or more people.
  - e. Avoid discretionary travel, shopping trips, and social visits.
  - f. Work related travel should be minimized; only absolute essential travel should be done.
  - g. Do not visit nursing homes, retirement or long-term care facilities, the elderly, or those with compromised immune systems unless to provide critical assistance.
  - h. Practice Good Hygiene -
    - i. Wash your hands, especially after touching any frequently used item or surface
    - ii. Avoid touching your face
    - iii. Sneeze or cough into a tissue, or the inside of your elbow
    - iv. Disinfect frequently used items and surfaces as much as possible
2. Practice care and consideration for yourself and others.
  - a. If you are symptomatic, stay home.
  - b. If you have questions or need assistance, ask for help.
  - c. Consult with medical staff if symptoms persist.
  - d. In addition to your state's health department website, we encourage you to access the following resources:
    - i. [ELCA Public Health](#)
    - ii. [Center for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) – Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(Covid 19\)](#)
3. *Above all, follow the directives from the local, state, and national authorities for restrictions related to Covid-19.*

*Please contact the Director of Contextual Education at Wartburg Theological Seminary if you have any questions or concerns about this policy in relationship to your Contextual Education site. Join me in praying for all who are ill, for the most vulnerable, for healthcare workers, public health officials, for local, regional, state, national and international policy makers, and all who are fearful about this virus. This is a complex matter and we rely on both the wisdom of experts, resources shared, and, most of all, on our faith in God who is rich in mercy. Know that we hold you close in prayer!*

Craig L. Nesson, Academic Dean, for the WTS Covid-19 Task Force

