

Verified Exposure of Individuals in our Community

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FROM LAWSON ASSEMBLY

We received word yesterday that Ryan and Hope Summers were in direct contact with individuals that have tested positive for COVID-19. Ryan and Hope were informed yesterday morning (Wednesday, March 18) that, while at their missionary orientation in Springfield last week (through Saturday, March 14), some of the delegation were unknown carriers of the virus. Not knowing they were exposed during their time in Springfield, Hope and her children attended church this past Sunday (March 15), where we followed the CDC guidelines given to us at that time.

Upon hearing this news, Lawson Assembly took the following steps:

- We asked the Summers family to contact the county health department and let them know that they had been exposed. The health department told them to self-isolate (for 14 days since contact) and reach out to their primary care physician to see about being tested. Their primary physician told them that they could not be tested since they are asymptomatic.
- Lawson Assembly called both the CDC and the Missouri COVID-19 hotline to ask what the response of the church should be. Both organizations simply told us to clean and be vigilant.
- The board of Lawson Assembly discussed what our response should be, regardless of what the CDC, the health department, and the Missouri COVID-19 hotline said. We decided the proper and loving thing to do is inform the church and public who have been in contact with Ryan and Hope, in case they begin to exhibit symptoms.

In addition, we felt it necessary to mention that the individual whom Ryan and Hope were in contact with was a guest speaker at Lawson Assembly of God on February 16. We have been told by the headquarters of the Assemblies of God that this individual contracted the virus from a visiting foreign delegation in Springfield, which was after his visit to Lawson Assembly on February 16.

Today, Lawson Assembly will be contacting everyone who was at church this past Sunday to inform them of these details. We ask that this would be a matter of prayer for our community and church, not an opportunity for gossip or finger-pointing. We are all doing our best to respond to information as we receive it, and remain vigilant to do our part to diminish the spread of this horrible virus. We encourage everyone to “be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.” Romans 12:12

If there are any questions, please contact Pastor Zack Searcy at 816-585-7058.

