**BRIEF GUIDELINES FOR RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES**

**General:** The person in charge of the house must know the telephone numbers of the Ministry of Health and the local health authorities to be contacted in case of suspected Covid-19 infection. Information materials on the hygienic sanitary measures to be observed to avoid contagion can be displayed at the entrance of the houses (please print leaflets or brochures prepared by the health department of your particular government, the World Health Organization, the BBC and other sources that can be displayed in your houses).

**In the house:** To arrange adequate hand washing/sanitization systems at the entrance of the house so that everyone can wash/sanitize their hands as soon as they enter the house – To wash hands frequently, whenever or not it is believed that they may have been contaminated – To air the rooms frequently - Also in the house keep a safety distance of one meter: at the time of common prayer and during meals, meetings, etc.. - In houses in which numerous religious live it is preferable to take turns in eating in order to maintain a safety distance - Do not exchange your phone or other objects for personal use with others - Clean all surfaces, including the phone, with alcohol or chlorine solution - If you sneeze or cough, always protect your nose and mouth with disposable tissue or elbow fold (do not use cloth to dry your nose, if used wash it immediately). If you cover yourself with your hand, never touch your eyes and nose afterwards but wash your hands immediately. - If someone has fever, flu symptoms, conjunctivitis, loss of taste or smell, consult your doctor. - Anyone with these symptoms even if they have not been swabbed should be considered positive for Covid 19 and should be isolated from others, take their meals alone in their room and, if possible, use a separate toilet. Where a separate toilet is not possible, the toilet should be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized after use of a symptomatic person. – Beware of the shared use of towels or toothbrushes or personal hygiene items - The person with the above symptoms must wear the surgical mask when leaving the room. Those who may be assisting them should also wear a surgical mask. It is preferable to use disposable materials for eating - The handles of the doors and windows touched by the individual in isolation must be cleaned - The asymptomatic individuals in quarantine must follow the same rules as the positive individuals at Covid 19 – Contacts between elderly and young people have to be ALWAYS limited as much as possible and in any case with all those who live within a community and have contact with the outside environment

 **In services outside the house**

 If possible wear a mask, when helping a poor or elderly person (the surgical mask is mainly used to protect our vulnerable friends) - Even when visiting homes, keep a distance of one meter, avoid crowding - Always ask your elderly friends if they have flu symptoms and possibly help them to contact the official channels of the Health Ministry or local health authorities for the control of Covid-19 - Wash/sanitize hands in and out of the houses or other places you may visit.