PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

Public Health and Social Services Department
http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health
H1N1 PANDEMIC

- **Communication**
  - Share information through sermons, bulletins, word of mouth, church phone tree

- **Linkages with vulnerable population**
  - Create or expand “buddy program” for isolated, vulnerable individuals
  - Activate a group to check on those who live alone
  - Make sure home visitors are not ill
H1N1 PANDEMIC

- Adjusting Church activities to provide added protection
  - Find alternate ways of greeting while maintaining social distancing
  - Find alternate ways of giving communion
    - Not sharing communal cup
    - Make sure all servers wash hands thoroughly and are not ill
H1N1 PANDEMIC

- Supporting public health and other local agencies
  - Encourage parishioners to get vaccinated
  - Ask members of congregation to volunteer
  - Share same prevention messages
    - cover cough,
    - wash hands, and
    - stay home when ill
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

- Be prepared - food, water, medications
- First 72 hours - YOYO (YOU’RE ON YOUR OWN)
- Buddy up to help someone else
- Sign up to be a volunteer now
  - Do not wait for an emergency
  - Join other volunteers in training and preparedness so you can help immediately
CHURCH ACTIVITIES

- Community service
  - Emergency shelter
  - Hygiene stations
  - Feeding programs
- Parish nursing
- Church services - greetings, communion
- Encourage persons who are ill to stay home, includes church home visitors
RESOURCES

❖ Emergency Preparedness Guide
   http://www.doh.wa.gov/phepr/handbook.htm

❖ Local Health Agencies
   ▪ http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health
   ▪ http://www.co.mason.wa.us/health/index.php
   ▪ http://lewiscountywa.gov/publichealth