



## **SVdP Georgetown Food Bank Preventive Measures For Coronavirus at Food Bank**

Many food banks closed last week, Mar. 9 thru Mar. 13. Others are running modified hours. We have made some changes to comply more fully with King County Public Health recommendations. These changes will help keep our volunteers, neighbors, and staff safe and healthy during the current health crisis.

These are not permanent changes, but they have been implemented and we will continue for at least the next few weeks. These are also practices other food banks across the area are utilizing during this time of health concerns. Items include:

- All books have been removed from the food bank, and will not return to the floor until King County has a better understanding of Covid-19 and its potential going forward. Books are soft paper and absorb all germs that get on them. We cannot effectively sanitize these surfaces on a daily basis.
- After a full day of service, several dozen people, any of whom could carry the virus without knowing it, have touched our books. If someone desperately needs a book, he or she can ask for it, and I will be happy to accommodate the request.
- Clothes in the food bank will be available on a request service basis. If a neighbor desperately needs an item of clothing, they will have to ask the front desk for the item. We have a limited supply of pants, socks, winter warmer knits, shirts, and coats. They are not shown in a public area because we are limiting exposure to these clothes to reduce the chance of spreading the virus.
- The food bank will not accept clothing donations for the next few weeks. Since we do not wash clothes after we receive them, we will not distribute donated clothing for food bank utilization. This does not apply to donations that go to the warehouse for our stores. This is just for items that go upstairs to the food bank specifically.
- We are discussing implementing a new distribution method that limits food coming into contact with our neighbors. This could be a system that has no food on the table until the neighbor asks for the item. We want to limit product exposure to any germs to the maximum degree possible. This will dramatically reduce the times neighbors touch food items that they do not want to take.
- Our new Food Bank Manager, Andrew Hershey, and the rest of the food bank team will continue to monitor the situation, and develop strategies that will help keep everyone's health in the best condition.