The Episcopal Diocese of Maryland
CHECKLIST & GUIDANCE for CLEANING of CHURCHES
during the COVID-19 PANDEMIC
[Based upon recommendations by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention]

- Always wear a mask and disposable gloves while cleaning and disinfecting. If possible, also wear a disposable gown or an apron or smock that can be put aside for prompt laundering. Wear these also when disposing of trash or placing trash out for collection.

- For pews and other wooden surfaces in your church, use a solution of Murphy's Oil Soap or Mr. Clean. Bleach-based products and cleaning wipes should NOT be used on finished wood, as these will damage the finish. Allow surfaces to air dry.

- If desired, after thoroughly air dried, pews and other wood may be sprayed and polished with a spray wax such as Pledge. This will protect the wood and also lessen the possibility of virus spread. Polished wood is more difficult for the virus to cling to.

- Doorknobs, light switches, handles, microphones, countertops, desks, phones, keyboards should routinely be cleaned using packaged wipes such as Clorox or Lysol Wipes. If wipes are not available, a solution of water and bleach or a solution of a product like Mr. Clean, Spic and Span or Pine Sol may be used. Institutional cleaning products may be purchased but are not necessary. Do your cleaning with a cloth, not a sponge.

- To make a bleach solution, mix 1/3 cup of bleach (5 tablespoons) with a gallon of water OR 4 teaspoons of bleach with a quart of water.

- Restrooms should be thoroughly cleaned, per usual practices, with wipes, a bleach solution or a solution of one of the detergents mentioned above. Replenish hand soaps, paper products, as needed. Liquid soaps are best – bar soaps are not recommended.

- Be certain hand sanitizer is available in key locations in the church worship areas. Replenish as needed.

- Folding chairs, tables and other furnishings in a Parish Hall or other meeting area should be wiped down with one of the above products after each use of the space. Allow furnishings to air dry with good ventilation.

- If your church has outdoor benches or playground equipment in current use, it is NOT necessary to disinfect this equipment. You will be wasting products needed for indoors. Simply wipe these surfaces with a detergent solution and allow to air dry. COVID-19 does not easily spread outdoors, so disinfecting there is not necessary.

- When cleaning is complete, dispose of gloves and wash your hands thoroughly! Promptly launder your apron or smock and any cleaning cloths.