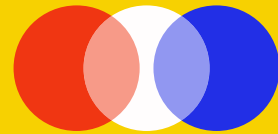


DRAFT



THE NATIONAL BLACK CHURCH INITIATIVE'S

**VIRUS SUPPRESSION
CHURCH PROJECT**

Reverend Anthony Evans
President, National Black
Church Initiative



Question 1

How have organizations responded to the social and technical challenges of managing indoor air quality to reduce the risk of airborne transmission?

For the Black Church in particular, we are very big on physical contact. We like to touch, hold, and hug each other before, during and after service. In essence, the way the Black church operates is antithetical to the precautions needed to stop the spread of COVID on other airborne pathogens.



Question 1 Continued

The Black Church's answer to this spiritual/ public health matter is to create a completely new paradigm of worship. That includes minimal contact without compromising the spiritual integrity of the Black worship experience. So, through careful investigation. We have solicited the technical support and expertise of the Integrated Bioscience and Built Environment Consortium (IBEC). IBEC has created programs that educate how to successfully mitigate transmission while educating the masses on safe protocols that really make a difference in stifling the unnecessary increase of COVID-19 cases and other contagious pathogens. So, the direct answer to the question is that there has been no programs or models that the church can follow that would mitigate the quality of the improvement of indoor air. We are griping with the only logical answer to this question is that the Black church needs to allow more fresh air, especiall during the fall, spring, and summer, However the winter becomes the challenge. Many of our churches, as you may know, resorted to outdoor worship even in the winter months. Of course, this approach is problematic given the changing environment and climate due to global warming. However, we are closely looking at this issue of indoor air quality in an experimental model we are producing entitled a virus supppressive church, which I will elaborate in the course of this presentation



Question 1 Continued

As a result of the consultation and the collaborative relationship, NBCI has sought out the experts with Dr. Kenneth Martinez and Dr. James LeBlance. We consider them NBCI's technical support team as we unveil the first virus suppressive church under the pastoral leadership of Rev. Dr. Calvin R. Kendrick of the Grace Baptist Church in the Bronx, NY.



Question 2

What is preventing us from taking actions to implement these changes, besides funding? What is the first step to overcoming this barrier?

Nothing is preventing us from taking action which we stated earlier in a collaborative effort with environmental experts. We're even going a step further by soliciting a public/private approach by enlisting the NYS EPA and the new model of the virus suppressive church. What we seek to do is to collaborate with the NYS Health Department and their environmental experts to train, teach, and create new environmental protocols for the safe worship experience.

We're doing this to prove to our 150,000 Black churches and the millions of churches across America as well as for large gathering events that large groups can come together safely with the proper and correct protocols in place which has been approved by trusted experts



Question 3

What do we know about the scope of responses across the country and within different sectors?

We know very little, due to the fact that there has not been a coherent public policy on the issues that faith-based and other communities confront when dealing with the quality of air and a virus submission process. So, what is being held up here is that the experts have not agreed on how to reduce the airborne transmission of COVID and other airborne pathogens and there has not been a decisive public protocol for faith-based communities and other communities that deal with this issue.

What we're trying to do in NBCI is come up with a uniform protocol that is accepted by the vast majority of experts on suppressing the virus to a point whereby there is low-risk of transmission within the life of the congregation.



Question 3 Continued

Our Procedures

In addition to radically adjusting the HVAC system of the church, we would employ new protocols in the church. For example the congregation would be required to be 100% vaccinated with boosters, hand washing periodically through the church service, and a mandatory mask policy. Furthermore, ushers and other individuals who interact closely with the congregation will be required to not only wear masks, but also gloves. With these protocols in place, which will be documented on a weekly basis, we strongly believe that we will be capable of suppressing the COVID virus and other pathogens in our churches. The third protocol will be the manner in which we clean our churches. This we will radically change of moving from one person to a two to three-person cleaning team. They will also be required to be vaccinated and boosted as well as using protective garments. They also were required to disinfect the church prior to service and immediately after service, and they are also required to keep specific data on their techniques of cleaning. these three aggressive protocols will radically realign the Church's existence to allow more fresh air into the church during all levels of season, for number one. Number two is the requirements of vaccination, mask wearing, washing of hands, social distancing and the wearing of gloves, in addition to having a decontamination area while entering to the church while also creating a different protocol of cleaning the church by increasing the number of individuals who are responsible for cleaning the church from one to three. We also plan to enforce strict protocol when coming into the church to make sure that temperatures are being checked and congregants are going through decontamination protocol when first entering the congregation



Question 4


What have we learned about factors driving successful and responsive management? What have we learned about barriers?

What we have learned is that it takes too long of a time for scientific protocols to be disseminated to the public without the issue of training and also visual assistance to literature, videotape, and other means of communicating accurate scientific protocols.



SUMMARY

Our faith community is approaching the COVID virus and other pathogens from a homemade perspective. In other words, this country has allowed the most vulnerable populations to create their own homemade approaches to virus suppression and dealing with other airborne pathogens. Their lack of scientific authority that is trusted whereby faith-based organizations look to create their protocols for minimizing the spread of the virus and dealing with other deadly pathogens. Then, it also becomes a question of cultural competency which can be dealt with forthright as we develop these protocols for the area of suppression. We have two outstanding scientific organizations that can be trained almost immediately in these protocols so that they can be translated to the Black and Latino community without the issues of cultural competency being critical factors, they are the National Medical Association and the National Spanish Medical Association, who can be encouraged to create an environmental section of their organization and who will be charged with translating these scientific protocols for the purpose of virus suppression and explaining these deadly pathogens and how to overcome them





THANK YOU FOR LISTENING

Reverend Anthony Evans, President of the National Black Church Initiative

