

## MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE ISSUES HEALTH AND SAFETY TIPS FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED DURING CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

MIAMI, March 17, 2020 – Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired has issued a set of recommended health measures that blind persons should take to avoid contracting the Coronavirus during the current outbreak.

“The blind are a very vulnerable and tactile population who depend largely on their sense of touch to navigate in everyday life,” said Miami Lighthouse President and CEO Virginia Jacko. “We are recommending that they take extra precautions to avoid the Covid-19 virus and remain healthy during the current period of contagion.”

Guidelines recommended by Miami Lighthouse include:

1. Have disinfectant wipes to clean your long white cane, support canes, rollator walker, walker, or wheelchair throughout the day.
2. Avoid putting a long white cane on the table. Place it under your seat in a public environment. Clean it with wipes when you pick it up again.
3. Guide dog handlers should refrain from letting the public pet their dogs
4. After reading Braille in public, use a hand sanitizer to clean your hands followed by washing hands when a sink is available.
5. Press elevator buttons with knuckles, elbow, or back of your wrist, then use a sanitizer.
6. Wipe down your phone with an alcohol wipe several times during the day.
7. Use disinfectant wipes to clean all doorknobs, light switches, and cabinet handles throughout the home.

Miami Lighthouse is Florida’ largest agency answering the needs of the blind and visually impaired with more 25,000 persons served throughout the state. For more information, visit [www.MiamiLighthouse.org](http://www.MiamiLighthouse.org).