

Hello Church Family,

As you've probably heard, face coverings are now required at all times for indoor church meetings. Although there is some good science showing that face coverings reduce the concentration of aerosolized particles, I realize this is an extra hurdle on Sabbath morning and I want to thank you in advance for your gracious response to these regulations.

As always, your pastors and leaders are committed to providing safe, worship gatherings where we can encourage each other in their experience with Jesus. Now more than ever, people need hope and spiritual community. Thank you for your part in helping our church continue to be a welcoming, loving family in these unprecedented times.

Below I have addressed some common questions people are asking about the wearing of masks. If you have any other questions or just need to talk about this situation, please feel free to reach out.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Bryan

Does this regulation apply to everyone?

- * *Children under 5* are not required to wear masks.
- * Children under 2 shall not wear masks.
- * Those with medical conditions making it unsafe to wear a mask are also exempt from this regulation however, we encourage you to use the Fireside Room where additional physical distancing is available during our church service.
- * Pastors, teachers, and musicians do not need to wear masks while speaking/performing up front and appropriately distanced from audience. After they finish, they are required to put on a mask.

What if I don't have a mask?

We have a limited supply available at our entrances.

What happens if people don't wear masks?

These policies are enforceable by various bureaus of labor and occupational safety. Anyone who thinks a church is not following the mandates can report violations to the appropriate state authorities. Those reports can result in fines and/or venues being shut down until they can maintain public health standards.

Is this a violation of religious liberty?

Although some have suggested the wearing of masks in church is religious oppression and even the Mark of the Beast, we find insufficient evidence for these views. The purpose of wearing masks during a pandemic is to prevent the spread of disease and help keep churches open. The Mark of the Beast, according to Revelation 13:16, is a "mark" on the forehead or on the hand. Both the language and context give evidence that this is a symbolic and not a physical mark, indicating submission to a false system of worship. Based on the Biblical principle of living "subject to the governing authorities" (Romans 13:1), Christians follow civil laws as much as possible unless they violate Biblical morality.