

Prepare the Way International Church

July 2020 – COVID-19 Policy

ARIZONA'S SOCIAL DISTANCING LAW FOR CHURCHES

Arizona: Religious services are exempt as an essential activity because worship is protected under the first amendment of the Constitution. However, the exemption specifies that the services are exempt as long as they "provide appropriate physical distancing to the extent feasible."

State of Arizona Attorney General Mark Brnovich on April 30th, 2020, released a memo "[**Application of Executive Order 2020-18 to Religious Worship**](#)" which provided the following clarification regarding religious worship and social distancing:

"Attendance at a church service is an "essential activity" under Executive Order 2020-18. The Executive Order does not impose an absolute six-foot social distancing requirement on essential activities that are constitutionally protected."

PHOENIX FACE MASK LAW FOR CHURCHES

In the light of [**Arizona's Executive Order 2020-40**](#) (June 17th, 2020), and the [**City of Phoenix's Mandatory Face Mask Policy**](#) that goes into effect Saturday, June 20th @ 6 AM, Prepare the Way International Church is adopting the exercise of exception as stated: "Exceptions for face coverings will be made under the following circumstances: For people whose religious beliefs prevent them from wearing a face covering." In the light of this exception, we have adopted the following policy:

PREPARE THE WAY INTERNATIONAL CHURCH COVID-19 POLICY

Please watch the service from home via FaceBook Live if:

- Underlying health issues put you at a greater risk if exposed to COVID-19.
- You tested positive for or have definitely been exposed to COVID-19, and have not either been cleared by a negative COVID-19 test or medical professional to resume public socialization.
- You are exhibiting any flu-like, cold, or viral symptoms such as running fever, chills, cough, headache, sore throat, breathing difficulty, or nasal or chest congestion.
- You are uncomfortable with the possibility of being in proximity of those whose religious beliefs prevent them from wearing a face mask.
- You are uncomfortable with the possibility of physical contact with another.

Before you attend service in person, know that:

- Hand sanitizer and face masks will be available at the entrance of the sanctuary and disinfectant available in the bathrooms.
- Some congregants, due to religious beliefs, may not be wearing face masks.
- Due to the family atmosphere of our church, the possibility of physical contact (e.g. hand-shakes, hugs) with another member or congregant does exist.
- On Sundays, parents can place their children (0 to 7 years old) in the nursery and children's church or keep children in the sanctuary with them.