

Dear Colonial Woods family,

I realize that the COVID-19 fatigue level is very high. I hear almost daily the frustration and concerns surrounding this issue. I want to encourage you that while we are facing unprecedented challenges, these are incredible days of opportunity for the Church to share the hope and comfort that is ours in Jesus Christ.

Most of you are aware that our governor issued an executive order this past Friday, July 10, mandating the use of masks in all public businesses and large outdoor gatherings. (To view entire order see: https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/MIEOG/2020/07/10/file_attachments/1492866/EO%202020-147%20Emerg%20order%20-%20Masks.pdf) While Church's and worshippers are exempt from fines when involved in worship services, we none-the-less want to be considerate of the health of others while showing respect to those whom the Lord has placed in authority.

In a desire to be a cooperative part of our community and in recognition that there is a worldwide pandemic, we will endeavor to continue practicing safe social distancing in all our ministries. This will include all our weekend services, with sanitation measures between services and thorough cleaning throughout the week, as we have been doing since the resumption of our weekend services.

We will be posting the Governor's order on all doors of the church in addition to our own recommendations so that those entering are familiar with recommendations.

Likewise, we will require all staff to utilize masks in our public foyer areas until they are seated for worship. In addition, we will also be requiring that all Volunteers who work in our guest services team in the foyer and worship center doors utilize masks until they are seated for worship as well.

We will continue to monitor both staff and volunteer temperatures upon entry for each event and require anyone with an elevated temperature (equal to or higher than 100.4 per CDC guidelines) to not serve that weekend.

We strongly recommend all attenders wear masks when entering our building until they reach their seats, at such time they may choose to wear their masks or remove them. Likewise, when leaving and fellowshiping, we will continue to recommend wearing masks.

Several groups are exempted from the Governor's order and therefore are allowed to **NOT** wear masks. Children under 5 years of age and those who have medical or breathing issues that are exacerbated by the use of masks are among them. In addition, those who are speaking to the hearing impaired as well as those whose job (Ministry) is interfered with by the use of a mask are also included. There are a number of exemptions that can be viewed by clicking the link to the full executive order. Therefore, no one will be refused entry to Colonial Woods worship services should they not be wearing a mask. We will offer masks upon entry and will assume those who are not wearing masks fit into one of these categories.

In addition, anyone who is serving on stage will not be required to wear a mask. However, they will be encouraged to do so when they are in the public venues of the church building.

We recognize that there are strong opinions on the use of masks on both sides of this issue. As a desire to *"submit one to another out of reverence to Christ"* Eph 5:20, scripture also charges us to *"Do nothing*

out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of others.” Phil 2:3-4

As such we will endeavor to think the best of others and see our security in Christ as an opportunity to serve not only each other but also our community.

It is vital now as much as any time in our history to be TOGETHER as a Body of Christ, extending Grace and Understanding to each other. Thinking the best of one another and pulling together at the foot of the Cross for the purpose of fulfilling the mission to which God has called us. It is my deep honor to serve as your pastor. I look forward to the day we can be together, face to face, embracing in Christ's love without concern about these things that have challenged us in these most recent days.

Wishing God's Best,

Pastor Phil