



Texas Church of God of Prophecy
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CHURCH OF GOD OF PROPHECY

Governor's Executive Order - The Use of Masks

July 10th, 2020

Dear Texas Pastors,

I want to take a brief moment to thank you for all your efforts to keep our people safe as we continue to face the current pandemic.

As of last week's reports, approximately 29 of our members throughout the state have tested positive and 1 has passed away. This report is based on the response of about 40 of our 87 pastors. I ask for your continual prayers for healing, protection and comfort. Our responsibility to care and protect our flock has become more important than ever.

Last week on July 2nd Governor Greg Abbott issued an executive order as part of the state's efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19. This decision comes as the number of people testing positive for COVID-19 and the number of hospitalizations have increased and the positivity rate in Texas increased above 10%, which the Governor previously stated would lead to further preventative action. Yesterday alone there were more than 11,000 cases in Texas.

The Governor's executive order requires that all who live in Texas use face-covering, pointing that wearing a face-covering is important not only to protect oneself, but also to avoid unknowingly harming others, specially given that many people who go in public may have the virus without knowing it, since they experience no symptoms. The executive order states that every person in Texas shall wear a face-covering over the nose and mouth when inside a commercial entity or other building or space open to the public ([see executive order](#)).

While the executive order provides for an exception to churches stating that the "*face-covering requirement doe not apply to... 9) any person who is actively providing or obtaining access to religious worship, but wearing a face-covering is strongly encouraged.*" I encourage you to keep in mind that our primary goal is to keep our people safe and if that requires going above and beyond we must do so. We must continue to partner with our local, city and state governments to be a part of the solution. Therefore, If you are having in person services, I strongly urge you to consider the use of masks during worship service.

We must still comply with social distancing requirements, protecting the at-risk-population (e.g. 65+, those with underlying conditions, etc.), the proper cleaning and disinfecting of our facilities, etc.

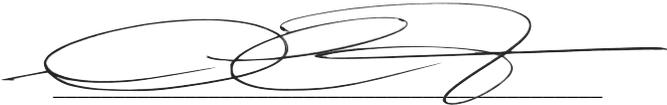
As stated in previous communications, it is the decision of each pastor and congregation to consider the wisdom of congregating at this time. In other words, each congregation is different, with unique demographics, worshiping in different facilities, located in different communities. I ask that you assess your unique situation in consultation with your leaders to make a wise decision regarding in person worship. Such decision must consider your ability to

comply with the safety procedures mandated by the state of Texas. If your church is unable to meet governmental minimum safety requirements DO NOT have in person services.

What we are going through as a Church has challenged our methods but it hasn't changed our mission. Therefore, I encourage you to continue providing ministry through all social media platforms available to you. Let's continue to shepherd, let's continue to care, let's continue to teach, let's continue to preach, let's continue pray for the healing of our land.

If you need any help with online tools that would allow you to provide ministry to your local church please don't hesitate to call our State Office.

Your servant,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daniel A. Felipe', written over a horizontal line.

Daniel A. Felipe
Texas State Bishop
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