

Due to the current confusion over mask wearing and quarantining in our the State of Ohio, the elders have put into place two policies to help clarify our expectation for our congregation.

MASK POLICY 07.28.20

Masks must be worn at all times while in the church building. Exemptions are the same as the State of Ohio, including medical exemptions, children under 10, speaking to a person with special needs, leading the service, eating, drinking, etc.

Concerning Ohio's quarantine laws for families traveling to states of higher risk (as determined by Ohio's Health Board).

The Ohio Covid-19 website reads:

Those entering Ohio after travel to states reporting positive testing rates of 15% or higher for COVID-19 are advised to self-quarantine for 14 days.

Positivity rate is an indicator of how much COVID-19 there is in a community, and ODH is recommending against travel to those states with high positivity. If someone must travel, ODH is recommending 14 days of self-quarantine after leaving those locations. This advisory is intended for both leisure and business travel and should be heeded by both Ohioans and out-of-state travelers.

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/families-and-individuals/covid-19-travel-advisory/covid-19-travel-advisory>

The question that arises in our minds is then, what does "*advised*" mean? We believe this word is leading to much confusion among Ohioans. The letter of the law seems to suggest quarantining is not required, only strongly recommended. But the spirit of the law seems to seek to deter Ohioans from traveling to states with higher outbreaks of the virus. If Ohioans still go to such states, then for the safety of others, it is best they quarantine for two weeks upon arriving back in Ohio.

Due to the ambiguity of the law, the elders felt a need to clarify what we believe the law means for our church.

QUARANTINE POLICY 07.28.20

Families who have/will travel to higher risk states (as determined by the State of Ohio Health Board) must quarantine themselves from all church activities for two weeks upon return.

Due to the confusion over the state policy, we admit that some employers may interpret the policy differently and each person will need to contact their employer and ask how they should proceed.

These policies will be updated as policies change in our state.

We readily admit that this is not convenient. The virus has upended most all of our plans this summer. However, we are seeking to obey our authorities as commanded by Scripture (Romans 13:1-7, I Peter 2:13-17) and to keep God's laws of loving our neighbor.

Paul says in Romans,

10 Love does no wrong to a neighbor;
therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.
Romans 13:10 ESV

Wearing masks at the appropriate times and quarantining after returning from a high risk state is the best way to "*do no wrong to our neighbor.*"

Let us be obey, not grudgingly, but willingly. Let us obey not because we may or may not get caught, but knowing that obeying is fulfilling God's Law of Love. Let our obedience be seen and modeled by our children who are seeing so much rebellion from adults these days. Above all, may God be pleased with our submission and obedience.

***Signed,
The Elder Board***