

COVID Advisory  
December 15, 2021  
Assemblies of God, Northern California and Nevada District Council

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AGNC Officers are receiving many questions about the recent mask mandate. This advisory is to clarify and give guidance for churches in California.

**The Directive:** The California Department of Public Health has issued a mandate requiring that all persons wear a mask when attending a public-indoor gatherings, regardless of vaccination status. The order applies through January 15, 2022.

Key points:

1. Applies to public gatherings, not private gatherings.
2. Applies regardless of vaccinated status.
3. Does not require social distancing or attendance limits.
4. Standard exceptions include:
  - a. children under 2
  - b. those who are hearing impaired or communicating with the hearing impaired
  - c. those that are prevented by medical or mental condition
5. Specific exception for those who are “performing” (singers and speakers).

**Enforcement:** The state has not answered the question about how mandate will be enforced. Some counties have signaled that they will use legal means to enforce the mandates, others have signaled that they will not. We advise that you familiarize yourself with your county’s position on the matter.

**What is the church obligated to do?** The order does not create new directives for the host of the meeting, so current obligations should apply. Currently, churches must post the requirements in a visible place, but churches are not required to enforce compliance. This may vary in counties that have adopted stricter position.

**Find the CPDH directive here:** <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/guidance-for-face-coverings.aspx>

**Other FAQs addressed here:** <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Face-Coverings-QA.aspx>