

THE ROAD AHEAD



GOING FURTHER. STILL SAFELY.

YELLOW AND GREEN PHASE

Metropolis Pandemic Policy Instructions
for Parish Leaders

Revised September 24, 2020



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH

HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN SAVAS

PITTSBURGH.GOARCH.ORG

IMPORTANT NOTE

THE PARISH PRIEST SHOULD INFORM THE METROPOLIS IF LOCAL CONDITIONS NECESSITATE THE PARISH'S MOVING FROM GREEN PHASE TO YELLOW OR VICE-VERSA.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT WHETHER A CHANGE IN STATUS IS NECESSARY, PLEASE EMAIL THE METROPOLITAN & CHANCELLOR.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Notes to the revised edition:

- Books may be placed in the pews. If used more than once per week, should be wiped after each service when used.
- In PA, parish status changes automatically with county status changes. In OH and WV, please consult with the Metropolis if your county is placed on Purple (OH) or Red (WV) status; otherwise, status is assumed to be "Green" until further notice.
- The policy information has been re-formatted; on the next page are those policies which are common between Yellow and Green phase, and the following page lists the points of divergence between the two.



COMMON TO YELLOW AND GREEN PHASE	
Ventilation	Recommend to replace and/or upgrade filters.
Attendance restrictions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - COVID, flu or acute illness - COVID contact in last two weeks - All groups of risk concern (age, health, etc.) should consult with their health care professional to address any questions about attending. If uncertain, stay home.
Narthex	Gatherings minimized/discouraged
Contact tracing records	Attendance list required and to be retained for one month
Disclaimer	Must be posted at entry points
Antidoron	Self-serve. Place on trays spaced apart.
Kollyva	Individual bags or cups
Music	Maximum of two chanters/singers, appropriately distanced
Acolytes	Must wear masks and maintain spacing in altar
Masks	Required for all attendees except serving clergy and chanters/singers (during services)
Provisions to be supplied by church	Hand sanitizer and masks to be provided at entry points
Doors	Clean doorknobs & contact points, open for ventilation (if practical / weather permitting)



ITEM	YELLOW PHASE	GREEN PHASE
Capacity	25 per space including liturgical team	Up to 50% of capacity while maintaining physical distance. Applies to all services and sacraments. PHYSICAL DISTANCE: - Restrict seating rows to maintain physical distance space (i.e., every other row or every third row) - Maintain physical distance within rows between seating clusters (families, couples, individuals) - Maintain physical distance between aisles and seating areas
Registration for services	May be required in advance (most parishes did require)	Dependent on parish need (many will not require due to increased capacity)
Veneration	Bow instead of kissing icons, priest's hand, sacred objects	Optional to bow or kiss. Clergy should make it clear that the choice is up to the individual. We are all asked to respect one another's choices in a spirit of love.
Kiss of Peace	Bow instead of kiss	- Clergy: bow instead of kiss - Laity: Family/seating clusters may exchange kiss, but others should simply bow
Holy Communion	- Priest wears mask or face shield - Receive open-mouthed, no contact - Avoid touching Communion cloth	- Clergy: Masks or face shields optional but recommended. - Laity: Resume customary parish practice (both closing mouth on spoon and open mouth are acceptable)
Celebrants	- Only one priest (or priest + deacon) - Other clergy may assist with Communion - 65 and older by permission only	Clergy may choose to concelebrate but should strive to maintain physical distance at the altar
Coffee/Social Hour	None	Must maintain same physical distance recommendations as church services. Follow local foodservice guidelines.
In-person meetings	None	If held, in person meetings must maintain same physical distance recommendations as church services; if unable or uncomfortable, hold online.
Confession	None	Allowed with physical distance between priest and penitent during conversation. Masks recommended.



APPENDIX A: ENTRANCE SIGNAGE & DISCLAIMER

See the attached file:



IMPORTANT: PLEASE READ THIS NOTICE BEFORE ENTERING THE CHURCH FACILITIES

By voluntarily entering this church facility:

- **I affirm that I am not currently ill or experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.**
- **I acknowledge that while safety measures are being taken by the church, it cannot guarantee the safety of every person present.**
- **I agree to abide by the physical distancing and safety guidelines being practiced in this church.**
- **I consent to hold the church harmless against any damages or claims regarding my voluntary presence here.**

If I am not able to agree to and affirm the above statements, I will not participate in this worship service in person and may choose to join online.

