

Statement of the Board of Directors Concerning the Requirement for Facial Masks or Facial Coverings for Meetings at Queen Creek Meeting House

The Board of Directors for the Queen Creek Meeting House has posted numerous notices that we are following the requirement of the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors that facial masks should be worn when persons are in public. The county mandate requires anyone age 6 and older to wear a face covering while inside a "place of public accommodation," including grocery stores and other retail shops, hotels, restaurants and bars, gyms and on public transportation. The mandate also requires masks in communal outdoor areas such as sidewalks. The Queen Creek Meeting House is in Maricopa County so we are subject to this mandate by the County Supervisors.

We are in a period of increased Covid-19 infection. When this mandate was passed on June 20, 2020 there were 25,945 cases of Covid-19 confirmed and 585 deaths.

Today, there are 279,885 confirmed cases and 4,684 deaths. On December 19 there were 6,769 new cases confirmed and 137 deaths attributable to the virus. These are facts, not subject to debate.

In order to keep the Meeting House open we have taken the course of requiring masks for all indoor meetings. This requirement is a requisite for all meetings and is not subject to the group conscience of the meeting or the group. The Queen Creek Meeting House, Inc. is a nonprofit corporation that provides a facility for 12 step meetings. It is not a part of AA. The corporation owns the building and grounds and provides space for the meetings. The meetings / groups pay rent in the form of contributions from the meeting attendees to the corporation in order to use the facility.

The corporation has the obligation to provide a safe environment in which the meetings can take place. There are rules against smoking in the building, having animals in the building, building bonfires on the property and other prohibitions to insure that as far as humanly possible, the environment is safe and secure. There are smoke detectors in the building, fire extinguishers on hand, locks on the doors and other measures taken to create a safe environment for the users of the facility.

The requirement for masks is another measure taken to aid in the creation of a safe environment. The mask that you wear protects those around you. The mask those around you wear protects you. We are in this pandemic together whether you believe it or not. The fact is that we must all protect each other. That is why we provide masks for those who forget theirs and have hand sanitizer and antibacterial soap on hand. These are common sense measures to protect the safety and health of the persons using the Meeting House. It is not based on politics or opinion. It is based on facts.

Therefore, if your meeting / group refuses to honor the requirement for the wearing of masks for meetings held inside the building, then your meeting cannot continue to hold meetings inside the meeting house. You are welcome to hold meetings outside without masks providing that proper social distancing is maintained. We make this statement in the interest of all who use the meeting house. It is not our intention to prevent anyone from attending a meeting, but rather to create as safe an environment as possible for all who attend the meetings.

In a few months perhaps the vaccine will make this requirement no longer necessary. In the meantime we ask that you help us keep the meeting house open and safe for all who meet there.