



# Oregon Senate Republicans

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## **Senate Republican Leader Statement on New Mask Rules**

SALEM, Ore. – Today, Governor Kate Brown and the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) unveiled new rules targeting churches and places of worship, on top of the others that were announced earlier this week at a press conference.

The difference is, the new rules for churches and places of worship were announced and went into effect today. [According to OHA](#), “Masks are required at all times, even when teaching, preaching or singing. The only exemption is for someone playing an instrument requiring mouth to instrument contact.”

Senate Republican Leader Fred Girod (R-Stayton) issued the following statement:

“Governor Brown hosted a press conference earlier this week and announced more COVID-19 rules, but she failed to mention the detailed expectations for churches and houses of worship that were announced late this afternoon.

“Even as a State Senator, I am not privy to this critical information. Where does this leave pastors and other church leaders if they aren’t on the OHA email list? Unbeknownst to them, this rapid rule change puts those hosting services today in the position of potential lawsuits.

“Governor Brown, could you explain the science behind the decision for singers and preachers to wear face masks when following all of your other rules? I do not understand why singing in church is considered more dangerous than shouting and screaming during violent protests.”

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