

Church of Greece Holy Synod finalizes measures, precautions ahead of Sunday opening of cathedrals to worshipers during holy services



Members of the permanent Holy Synod of the Autocephalous Orthodox Church of Greece on Tuesday finalized and announced a series of measures and precautions that will be applied as of Sunday, when places of worship will open for services in the country, with the presence of worshipers.

The relevant education and religious affairs ministry has already circulated a ministerial decision allowing the opening of places of worship with the presence of worshipers — while also allowing mass attendance of people at baptisms and weddings held in cathedrals and chapels.

A relevant encyclical issued by the Holy Synod, towards Metropolitans around the country, reminded of the public health measures in place, such as a distance of no

less than a meter and a half between worshipers, as well as one person per 10 square meters of floor space, and a maximum of 50 worshippers at a time in cathedrals, regardless of size.

Sextons or volunteers at church entrances will wear a protective mask and gloves, while anti-septic liquids will be available at all entrances. It's recommended that worshipers also wear protective masks.

Finally, schedules for the holding of holy services and the Divine Liturgies will be posted outside places of worship and on their individual websites.

The same measures, guidelines and precautions also include monasteries, chapels and religious retreats.

Organized tours and visits by pilgrims are still not permitted to pilgrimage sites and monasteries.