

## **Mt. Athos administration decides against 'lockdown', implements stricter measures after Covid-19 instances**



**Members of the Holy Community of Mount Athos, the rotating administrative body for the semi-autonomous Orthodox monastic community in northern Greece, met on Tuesday morning -in an extraordinary session - to discuss the confirmed Covid-19 cases that were recorded in a handful of monasteries there. A decision was taken not to seal off the Holy Mount to visitors and pilgrims, but rather, to take stricter measures to prevent any further exposure to the coronavirus.**

Among others, a ceiling on the number of visitors to each monastery will be re-instituted, while pilgrims will not be able to travel from one monastery to another.

The head of a government-appointed team of experts tasked with managing the

COVID-19 pandemic in Greece, Dr. Sotiris Tsiodras, visited the Mount Athos capital of Karyes on Tuesday, leading a special detail of public health officials.

**EXCLUSIVE - This is the relevant encyclical issued by the Holy Community of Mount Athos:**





ΙΕΡΑ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΗΣ  
ΑΓΙΟΥ ΟΡΟΥΣ  
ΑΘΩ

ΑΡ. ΠΡΩΤ. Φ.2/43β/2200



ΑΦΥΓΑΙ ΤΗ 9η/22α Σεπτεμβρίου 2020

Πρὸς τὰς Κ' Ἱ. Μονὰς τοῦ Ἁγίου Ὄρους Ἀθω  
(καὶ δι' αὐτῶν τοῖς Ἐξαρτήμασιν αὐτῶν)

Τὴν Ὑμετέραν Πανοσιολογιότητα  
ἀδελφικῶς ἐν Κυρίῳ κατασπαζόμεθα.

Διὰ τοῦ παρόντος ἐγκυκλιώδους ἱεροκοι-  
νοσφραγίστου ἡμῶν γράμματος προαγόμεθα φιλαδέλφως ὅπως, λόγῳ τῆς  
παρατηρουμένης γενικῆς ἀξήσεως τῶν κρουσμάτων κορωνοϊοῦ κατὰ τὸ τελευταῖον  
διάστημα, γνωρίσωμεν Ὑμῖν, ἀποφάσει τῆς καθ' ἡμᾶς Ἱ. Κοινότητος, τὴν λήψιν τῶν  
κάτωθι μέτρων κατὰ τῆς πανδημίας, ἰσχυόντων μέχρι νεωτέρας ἐνημερώσεως:

α) Ἐπιτρέπεται ἡ ἔκδοσις μόνον εἰδικῶν διαμονητηρίων (ἀποκλειομένων  
παντελῶς τῶν γενικῶν) μὲ ἀνώτατον ὄριον ἡμερησίως:

- i. Δέκα (10) ἀνὰ ἐκάστην Ἱερὰν Μονήν,
- ii. Πέντε (5) ἀνὰ Κυριακὸν ἐκάστης Κοινοβιακῆς Σκήτης,
- iii. Δύο (2) ἀνὰ Κυριακὸν ἐκάστης Ἱδιορρυθμοῦ Σκήτης,
- iv. Ἐνα (1) ἀνὰ ἕκαστον Ἱερὸν Κελλίον ἢ Καλύβην ἢ Ἡσυχαστήριον.

β) Τονίζεται ἰδιαίτερος ὅτι δὲν ἐπιτρέπεται ἡ μετακίνησις τῶν κατὰ τὰ ἀνωτέρω  
εἰσερχομένων εἰς Ἅγιον Ὄρος εἰς ἕτερον, πλὴν τοῦ προσκαλοῦντος, Ἱερὸν Καθίδρυμα.

γ) Ἐν περιπτώσει ἐμφάνισεως ὑπόπτων κρουσμάτων δέον ὅπως εἰδοποιῇται  
ἀμέσως τὸ Κέντρον Ὑγείας Ἀγίου Ὄρους καὶ ἡ Ἱερὰ Ἐπιστασία ἵνα ληφθοῦν τὰ δέοντα  
μέτρα.

δ) Δέον ὅπως λαμβάνωνται τὰ ἀναγκαῖα μέτρα ὑγιεινῆς (θερμομετρήσεις, χρήσις  
ἀντισηπικῶν κ.λπ.), προστασίας καὶ ἀποφυγῆς τοῦ συνωστισμοῦ.

ε) Ἐπιτρέπεται ἡ εἴσοδος ἐν Ἀγίῳ Ὄρει προσκυνητῶν ἐκ τῆς ἀλλοδαπῆς μόνον  
κατόπιν ἐπιδείξεως τέστ ἀνιχνεύσεως κορωνοϊοῦ.

Ἐπὶ δὲ τούτοις, διατελοῦμεν μετὰ πολλῆς τῆς ἐν Κυρίῳ ἀγάπης καὶ φιλαδελφίας

Ἀπαντες οἱ ἐν τῇ κοινῇ Συνάξει Ἀντιπρόσωποι καὶ Προϊστάμενοι  
τῶν εἴκοσιν Ἱερῶν Μονῶν τοῦ Ἀγίου Ὄρους Ἀθω.

Κοινοπ.: Πολιτικὴν Διοίκησιν Ἀγίου Ὄρους

**In a related development, according to an exclusive report in the Orthodoxia News Agency, the Archbishop of Athens and All Greece, His Beatitude Ieronymos, has reportedly received requests by Metropolitans of the Church of Greece to postpone a conference of hierarchs, which is scheduled for October.**