



## Town of Prescott Valley

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# News Release

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### **Prescott Valley will not have mandatory mask policy, but strongly encourages them when social distancing is not possible**

Following COVID-19 case increases and hospitalizations in other parts of Arizona, Governor Doug Ducey announced Wednesday that local governments may implement mandatory mask and face-covering policies and determine enforcement measures. “This guidance allows local authorities to tailor mitigation efforts specific to the local public health need,” a news release on Governor Ducey’s website stated.

Prescott Valley Mayor Kell Palguta, citing a 97.4 percent negative test rate in Yavapai County for Covid-19, and an ongoing low number of hospitalizations, said the Town will continue with what it has been doing – encouraging personal responsibility in best practices to avoid infection. This includes strongly suggesting that residents wear masks when they cannot properly social distance, such as in stores and crowded areas, engage in proper sanitation measures, and stay home when ill.

“We do not want to paint Prescott Valley with the same broad brush as the rest of Arizona,” Palguta said. “What we’re doing here is working. We’ll be keeping a close eye on the situation moving forward as we have from the beginning of March. We appreciate the Governor recognizing that this is a local issue.”

Palguta urged residents who are at higher risk of contracting Covid-19 because of age or underlying health conditions to use added caution to include staying at home if they desire.

Governor Ducey announced additional actions to contain the spread of the virus. See the entire announcement at <https://azgovernor.gov/>