

## General requirements

It is important that we all use personal judgement to manage our own risk. All of us can play our part by exercising common sense and considering the risks. While no situation is risk free, there are steps everyone can take to reduce the risk of transmission. People are encouraged to respect one another's views. Some attendees and those working may wish to take a more cautious approach than other people. We should all be considerate of this and provide the opportunity and space for others to reduce close contacts if they wish.

If people are suffering from any of the identified Covid-19 symptoms, they should not attend church. They should self-isolate immediately and get a PCR test. This restriction will also apply if others in their household are experiencing symptoms. People are reminded of this restriction at the entrance to the church building.

If someone has been instructed by NHS Test and Trace to self-isolate because they have tested positive for COVID-19, or they are not fully vaccinated and have had close contact with someone who has tested positive, they must self-isolate and not attend church. People are required to wear a mask when they enter the church buildings and to keep it on until they leave. It is permissible to remove a mask when singing although some will choose to continue to wear one throughout. People leading from the front are also allowed to remove their mask whilst speaking.

Refreshments will continue to be served. It will be for individuals to decide whether or not they wish to stay for refreshments. Masks can be removed when drinks are being consumed. People should respect those who wish to maintain social distancing. Masks must be replaced and worn when walking through and leaving the building.

Simple and effective personal hygiene behaviours can reduce the risk of catching or spreading COVID-19. These include:

- washing hands with soap and water and using hand sanitiser regularly throughout the day
- avoiding touching eyes, nose and mouth, and washing hands before and after if there is a need to touch your face (for example to put on or take off your face covering)
- covering mouth and nose with disposable tissues when coughing or sneezing, or sneezing into the crook of your elbow (not your hands) if you do not have a tissue

There are no limits on the number of people who can meet and there are no legal requirements for social distancing.

Clinically extremely vulnerable people are advised to follow the same guidance as everyone else. However, they should think particularly carefully about precautions they continue to take.

## Information on face coverings

An A-frame information sign providing instructions on face coverings will continue to be displayed in a visible location as people enter the building.

The QR Code and hand sanitiser will continue to be available for use by those attending services and other activities.

A box of face masks will be on the table in the entrance lobby (*face masks will not be handed to people on entry*).\*

People are to wear face coverings during services unless they are exempt.\*\*

Our team will not enforce the wearing of face masks.\*\*\*

For those who are not exempt, face coverings can be removed:

- by those leading the service at any point, and by anybody who is participating in an element of the service which they deem to require the removal of a face covering (e.g. singing, praying, using spiritual gifts).
- by people who are eating or drinking.
- by anybody whose facial features need to be seen by those who rely on lip-reading, clear sound or seeing facial expressions to communicate (e.g. Welcome Team members, office staff and those serving refreshments).

*\*The Government specifically asks everybody to please be mindful and respectful of people who are less able to wear face coverings, the reasons for which may not be visible to others.*

*This includes (but is not limited to):*

- *children under the age of 11 (The UK Health Security Agency does not recommend face coverings for children under the age of 3 for health and safety reasons)*
- *people who cannot put on, wear or remove a face covering because of a physical or mental illness or impairment, or disability*
- *people for whom putting on, wearing or removing a face covering will cause severe distress*
- *people speaking to or providing assistance to someone who relies on lip reading, clear sound or facial expressions to communicate*
- *to avoid the risk of harm or injury to yourself or others*
- *police officers and other emergency workers, given that this may interfere with their ability to serve the public*

*\*\*People will not be asked if they are exempt, nor will they have to prove that they are exempt.*

*\*\*\*The Government has stated that it isn't the responsibility of staff at theatres, cinemas, shops etc to enforce face coverings. Our only responsibility is to have signage on display to ensure that people are aware of the requirement to wear a face covering where there is no applicable exemption or reasonable excuse not to wear one.*