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Coronavirus Guidance for Property

Update from 27 January 2022

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS FOR ENGLAND ONLY. FOR INFORMATION IN OTHER REGIONS, PLEASE CLICK ON THE LINKS BELOW:

Scotland – please refer to the Scottish [Guidance for the Safe Use of Places of Worship](#)

Wales –please refer to the [Guidance for Re-Opening Places of Worship](#)

For specific guidance in the **Isle of Man** and **Channel Islands (Guernsey & Jersey)**, please follow the links for specific local regulations and guidance.

The Government have updated their guidance for the Safe Use of Places of Worship following the removal of Plan B restrictions. A copy of the full document can be found here – [COVID-19: guidance for the safe use of places of worship - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#). Within this document there are separate links to Government guidance concerning activities such as weddings, funerals and food & drink.

What are the main considerations going forward?

Under the new guidance, most of the previous legal restrictions have been removed such as –

- social distancing;
- limiting numbers of people attending events;
- requirements to wear a face covering, including for singing and performance;
- and, singing, music and performances generally.

Churches may wish to consider the following specific suggestions, based on their local situations, to help those using their buildings feel safe and welcome:

1. Continue to let fresh air in if possible:

Ensuring that rooms are adequately ventilated is still to be encouraged where possible and practical. For further information see the Government guidance here - [Ventilation of indoor spaces to stop the spread of coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#).

2. Continue to wear face coverings in areas of high risk:

It may be suitable in crowded or enclosed spaces, particularly if ventilation is poor, to continue to wear face coverings to reduce the risk of transmission. Particularly where you share spaces with people you do not normally meet.

3. Continue to get tested and self-isolate if needed:

Anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 or who test positive should self-isolate. Continue to use rapid lateral flow testing, particularly if working in higher risk environments or with those who might be vulnerable.

4. Continue to encourage good hygiene practice:

Provide hand sanitiser in convenient areas throughout the building for everyone to use; keep established practices of cleaning surfaces touched regularly and rooms with high use by different groups such as toilets and kitchens. Similarly, continue to encourage good hygiene when considering handling shared objects, communal resources and food & drink.

Other helpful links include:

- [Methodist Insurance](#)
- [TMCP's Covid 19 FAQ's section](#)

Other key documents to review are:

- [Guide to Managing Your Church Building](#)
- [Covid-19 Risk Assessment \(Word\)](#) or [\(pdf\)](#)
- [Cleaning Churches during Covid-19](#)
- [Re-Opening a Building Checklist \(Word\)](#) or [\(pdf\)](#)

If you have a specific question, please contact your **District Property Secretary** or **Property Support**.

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