

COVID-19: Faith Settings Webinar

Question and Answer Session

Is hand shaking now allowed between the congregation?

While social distancing requirements have been removed, the guidance still stipulates that easing of restrictions should be a gradual approach. We would advise premises to have ample amounts of hand sanitiser and encourage members to use this before hand shaking occurs.

Do I need to continue to restrict capacity to the premises?

We would strongly advise that you take a gradual and staged approach to increased capacity.

How do I encourage people to move on after they have attended a service?

We appreciate that there will be large volumes of people will be visiting your premises. We recommend that you make an announcement at the end of a ceremony or service asking people to gradually exit to prevent everyone leaving at the same time.

Do I need to close if I have an outbreak within my workforce?

A joint decision whether a premise needs to be closed will be made at a multi-agency management meeting including officers from the council and Public Health. Therefore, it remains vital that premises have adequate Covid-19 measures in place to reduce workplace exposure between staff.

Environmental Health will look at a premises Covid-19 risk assessment in the result in an outbreak to ensure it is sufficient and can successfully mitigate transmission of the virus.

Will the local authority be taking action, in what scenario?

We will be taking a light touch approach upon enforcement and we will be offering support and guidance to premises that require help. The council have powers to issue a fixed penalty notice if employers are found to be circumventing self-isolation guidance and should there be an imminent risk to public health, then the council has the power to close or restrict the business or service.

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I've heard that you can return to work if self-isolating with daily testing, is this correct?

There is a pilot study currently being trialled by Greene King and selected supermarkets. If you are not within this study, you are not currently exempt from self-isolation guidance.

Should I continue to use a checklist for everyday COVID related checks?

Yes, we would recommend this. This will help with knowing what cleaning tasks have been completed and any other requirements that you deem appropriate, such as symptom checks of all staff and volunteers.