

COVID-19: Faith Settings Webinar

Question and Answer session

Is hand shaking allowed?

Hand shaking is only permitted with those within your household or support bubble. Physical contact with others is currently prohibited, and social distancing measures should remain in place.

Can I use ordinary cleaning chemicals or wipes?

There is no requirement to use any other product than the normal cleaning products you would typically use. There is a British standard Product, BS EN14476 that is recommend but this is not compulsory. The guidance stipulates that you should carry on with your normal everyday disinfectant and sanitizer. Cleaning wipes that are a disinfectant are also deemed as suitable.

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

The use of COVID Marshalls or stewards to actively encourage people to leave the site as soon, and as safely as possible, is strongly advised. An announcement via a speaker system may also assist you.

People should not congregate outside the premises and should disperse as soon as prayers/ceremonies have ended. People are prohibited from mixing with anyone who isn't from the same household/bubble. Congregating outside is deemed as a gathering.

Can people receive a fine if they do not wear a face covering?

Yes. It is a legal requirement to wear a face covering in a place of worship. A Fixed Penalty Notice may be issued by an Authorised Officer of West Midlands Police for a sum of £200 for a first offence. The individual must have a reasonable excuse as to why they are not complying with the requirements set by law.

You can find further information [here](#).

Should I use a check list for everyday COVID related checks?

A checklist is recommended to ensure that you cover all bases for a safe environment. An opening and closing checklist will help, as will a cleaning schedule.

If there are independent businesses within my faith setting, am I required to undertake their risk assessment?

It is the responsibility of the business/service operator to carry out their own risk assessment, identifying the hazards, risk factors, and control measures associated with their business type. You may wish to have sight of this, and they may wish to refer to your general site risk assessment.

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What do I do if people refuse to wear a face covering?

If a person does not have a reasonable excuse as to why they are not complying with the requirements to wear a face covering within this setting, then it is advised, at this time, that you refuse entry.

It is recommended that you have a supply of face coverings to hand for the congregation to encourage their use. You may also wish to keep a supply of face-coverings for those who arrive without one.

Will there be an increase in the number of people who may attend in light of the roadmap out of lockdown? And if so, when will the changes take effect?

As the government confirm each stage of the road map, and announce permission for certain restrictions to lift, where social distancing remains, capacity levels will remain the same in accordance with the nature and size of your premises.

The Government have confirmed an increased capacity for weddings and funerals through each stage of the road map.

Step 4, which will occur no earlier than 21 June, proposes that there will be no legal limits on life events. This date remains subject to change.

Each stage will be reviewed every 35 days, with a proposed announcement 7 days prior to announce a confirmed date. Stage 2 has a proposed date for the 12th April 2021, and the government will announce on the 5th April if this date is to go ahead, or if it will change.

What penalties are in place for breach of the law?

Where there are serious concerns with unsafe environments, posing a serious and imminent risk to public health, the Local Authority will require you to close until the risks are removed. There are a number of legal notices that may be served upon you to address such matters. Any breach of a legal notice could lead to criminal proceedings made against you.

For lack of compliance with the wearing of a face covering, fines start at £200, increasing to a maximum value of £6,400.