

Arrangements for Public Worship during the COVID-19 Outbreak

Version	Date	Revisions
0.1	07/07/2020	Draft issue for comment.
1.1	13/07/2020	Final version for publication.
1.2	07/08/2020	Amended to reflect additional legal requirements.
1.3	11/09/2020	Amended to reflect additional legal requirements.
1.4	30/11/2020	Amended to reflect Tier 3 restrictions.
1.5	29/03/2021	Amended to reflect updated guidance.
1.6	14/05/2021	Amended to reflect updated guidance.
1.7	31/07/2021	Amended to reflect the end of legal restrictions.

Introduction

On 19th July 2021, all legal restrictions on public worship ended, and the government publication 'COVID-19: guidance for the safe use of places of worship and special religious services and gatherings during the pandemic' was replaced with a more concise document. The revised guidance makes some general recommendations, but emphasizes that we should now use personal judgement to manage the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

COVID-19 Symptoms

The main symptoms of COVID-19 are a high temperature, a new continuous cough, and a lost or changed sense of taste or smell.

In order to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 transmission, we continue to advise that anyone exhibiting one or more of these symptoms must not attend services at Evington Chapel. The elders should also be notified if anyone begins to develop these symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19 within two days of attending a meeting at the chapel so that an appropriate response can be coordinated.

For the foreseeable future, we will continue to live stream all our services through the Evington Chapel website for the benefit of those who are unable to attend in person.

Social distancing

We no longer maintain a formal seating plan for the chapel, but will continue to set aside an area of seating for those who would prefer not to sit in close proximity to others. It should be noted, however, that this may not be possible on special occasions when larger numbers of people are present.

Hygiene practices

Although strict hygiene practices are no longer considered to be necessary, we will continue to provide hand sanitizer dispensers in the entrance porch and minister's vestry for use by members of the congregation when entering and leaving the building. Additionally, soap dispensers and paper towels will be provided in the toilet facilities. We will continue to clean the chapel premises regularly.

Shared items

For the immediate future, we will continue to use individual cups rather than a common cup when the ordinance of the Lord's Supper is administered. However, this arrangement will be reviewed by the elders on a monthly basis.

Attendance records

We no longer maintain weekly attendance records, but contact details for those who regularly attend Evington Chapel are held on file, and visitors may supply a telephone number for contact tracing purposes if they wish to do so. All records will be held in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations and will not be disclosed to a third party – including the NHS – without the consent of the person concerned.

Face coverings

Face coverings are no longer mandatory, but those who wish to wear one are welcome to do so.

Contact Details

Contact details for the elders are listed below.

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