



**Coronavirus Risk Assessment for provision of live singing by a group and playing of instruments**

The Baptist Union of Great Britain has developed this risk assessment template working with health and safety consultants from Ellis Whittam to assist churches as they plan for re-opening their premises. We have decided at MREC to adopt the template and amend as required to reflect our own situation.

Government guidance is given on the following webpage [Coronavirus: Guidance For Reopening Church Buildings](#)

This risk assessment should be a living document subject to regular review. It should certainly be reviewed after the first few times our church gathers and after any change in government regulations or guidance to ensure that the assessment of risks remains appropriate and the control measures are appropriate and are functioning as intended.

This risk assessment does not cover other aspects associated with Sunday services and should be read in conjunction with other risk assessments.

Date of issue: 24 November 2020

Date of review: 24 November 2020

Date of validation ahead of opening: 27<sup>h</sup> November 2020

Amendment after opening 12<sup>th</sup> December



<b>Activity:</b> Should I attend MREC Meetings? [RA1]			
<b>Risk:</b> Coronavirus entering the premises and potentially infecting users of the building			
<b>Persons at risk:</b> Musicians, members, attendees, Cleaners.			
<b>Risk Rating before control measures</b>	Unacceptable	<b>Risk Rating after control measures</b>	Tolerable

Control Measures	Control in place (Y/N)	Person Responsible	Comments
1. Ask everyone symptomatic not to attend	✓	Individual Musicians	Any musician who tests +ve will require the whole group of musicians to self-isolate if they have been within 2m of them with no mask on. [refer to guidance section <a href="https://gov.wales/guidance-reopening-places-worship-coronavirus-html#section-44811">https://gov.wales/guidance-reopening-places-worship-coronavirus-html#section-44811</a> "Singing, chanting and the use of musical instruments"]. This must be pointed out to musicians prior to them agreeing to perform.
2. All musicians / singers asked to follow government guidance on self-isolation after symptoms and/or positive test/contact tracing/returning from foreign travel.	✓	Individual Musicians	Barriers between singers are to be provided. They are deemed therefore to be 'individual singers' and not part of a fixed team, [refer to guidance <a href="https://gov.wales/rehearsing-performing-and-taking-part-performing-arts-guidance-phased-return-html#section-50444">https://gov.wales/rehearsing-performing-and-taking-part-performing-arts-guidance-phased-return-html#section-50444</a> section 3.19 "Singing and playing wind and brass instruments". This means they would not be expected to isolate provided the specific MREC guidance has been followed. Any singing should be conducted from behind barriers whether during a rehearsal or performance.
3. Try and use home toilet before leaving for church to avoid need to use facilities at MREC.	✓	Individual Musicians	
4. Social distancing measures to be maintained where possible, including the arrival and departure of the venue.	✓	Individual Musicians	



Control Measures	Control in place (Y/N)	Person Responsible	Comments
5. It is now mandatory for all attendees to wear face masks.	✓	Individual Musicians	Face masks to be worn except for when singing. Singing to be conducted behind plastic screen to prevent / reduce risks associated with aerosol transmission of virus.



<b>Activity:</b> Use of Church Building for Main Sunday Service(s) [RA2]			
<b>Risk:</b> Coronavirus entering the premises and potentially infecting users of the building			
<b>Persons at risk:</b> Ministers, leaders, members, attendees			
<b>Risk Rating before control measures</b>	Unacceptable	<b>Risk Rating after control measures</b>	Acceptable
<b>Seating Arrangements</b>			
1. Once seated attendees to remain in allocated seat.	✓	Individuals	Exception will be made for a) being taken ill or b) requiring use of welfare facilities and c) when required to sing.
<b>During the Service(s)</b>			
2. No singing; by congregation however, songs/hymns can form part of the service and the piano/organ/electronic music can be played to accompany words visible on the main screens through Youtube/other media sources.	✓	Individuals	<u>Note re Musicians / Singers:</u> No more than 3-4 singers are permitted. No more than 6 musicians are permitted to form another group. Both groups should NOT mix.
3. Singers to be positioned behind and between screens to protect each other and congregation immediately in front of them.	✓	Tech Team / individuals	Screens to be cleaned after use and should self-sanitise between Sunday services. If singers are in a 'bubble' they may position themselves without a screen between them.
4. Single microphone to be allocated to and used by each person	✓	Tech Team / individuals	No additional sanitising measures are considered necessary whilst only a single meeting is held. When two services are planned for it will be necessary to consider whether cleaning of the mics between services is required.
5. Once seated attendees to remain in allocated seat.	✓	Individuals	Exception will be made for a) being taken ill or b) requiring use of welfare facilities and c) when required to sing.



6. Volume of music before / during / after service should not be sufficiently loud that it caused attendees to have to speak with raised voices.	✓	Tech Team / individuals	
7. Instrumentalists	✓	Tech Team / individuals	Items 4 to 6 apply to instrumentalists too unless some are in 'bubbles'. The layout of the instruments and seating should permit side on facing of musicians to one another and maintenance of 2m social distancing where this is necessary.
<b>Practices &amp; Rehearsals</b>			
8. As much practising as possible should be completed without the need to meet at the church (i.e. self study / over internet platform)	Y		There should be no mixing between individual singers and instrumentalists or mixing within each group
9. When not 'practising' masks should be worn and social distancing implemented.	Y		Refreshments should be brought from home. The kitchen should not be used.
10. Mics and other equipment should be allocated to each person to minimise risk of cross contamination. This is particularly important if items are not left untouched for 72hours prior to their next use	Y		Consider either sanitising equipment between uses or if not quarantine items between rehearsals & services

## Review/Revision Record

Date of Review	Confirmed by	Comments
24/11/20	R A Clough	V1 – Initial version
24/11/20	R A Clough	V2 – typo corrected following review by NP
12/12/20	R A Clough	V3 – update following correspondence with WG and review by NP