



Coronavirus Risk Assessment for Opening the Church

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.

Date of issue: 24 August 2020

Date of review: 11 September 2020 SD

Date of validation ahead of opening: 02 October 2020 RAC & SD

Latest Amendment after opening 26 February 2022 RAC



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

Control Measures	Control in place (Y/N)	Person Responsible	Comments
1. Ask everyone symptomatic not to attend	✓	Leadership Team	
2. All attendees asked to follow government guidance on self-isolation after symptoms and/or positive test/contact tracing/returning from foreign travel.	✓	Leadership Team	
3. Vulnerable persons to consider not to attending in person	✓	Individuals	Current Guidance does not ban individuals from attending.
4. Try and use home toilet before leaving for church to avoid need to use facilities at MREC.	✓	Individuals	
5. Physical distancing measures to be maintained where possible, including the arrival and departure of the venue.	✓	Individuals / Stewards	Current Guidance document states "In so far as the reasonable measures themselves are concerned, there has been a particular emphasis throughout on physical distancing, in particular measures to keep people 2 metres apart. Following the change in the law, physical distancing is still a reasonable measure that may be taken, and in many circumstances is likely to be required to be taken, however it is no longer given particular prominence. This means that where other measures can be taken to minimise risk, such as moving outdoors, requiring people to be tested or vaccinated, using screens etc., physical distancing may not be required or could be required to a lesser extent." Arrival to and Departure from the building is

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Control Measures	Control in place (Y/N)	Person Responsible	Comments
			not considered to present a risk as this is achieved completely outside. Physical Distancing requirements have been dropped by MREC.
6. It is no longer mandatory for all attendees to wear face masks.	✓	Individuals / Stewards	Guidance is to be changed on 28 th Feb such that face coverings are no longer mandatory.



Activity: Pre-meeting checks [RA2]			
Risk: Coronavirus entering the premises and potentially infecting users of the building			
Persons at risk: Ministers, leaders, members, attendees, Cleaners, Contractors			
Risk Rating before control measures	Unacceptable	Risk Rating after control measures	Acceptable

Control Measures	Control in place (Y/N)	Person Responsible	Comments
1. Display suitable posters to ask people with symptoms not to enter the building (see our Coronavirus poster library)	✓	H&S Trustee / Publicity Committee	
2. Ensure that there is sufficient stewarding presence to suit the meeting	✓	Lead Steward	
3. Provide information to those who may wish to attend	✓	H&S Trustee / Publicity Committee	A video to explain and illustrate the procedures that will be in place is on our website https://malpasroadevangelicalchurch.com/coronavirus-position-please-read/
4. Inform local area of the procedure we have put in place	✓	H&S Trustee / Publicity Committee	Information is on website and social media



Activity: Use of Church Building for Main Sunday Service(s) [RA3]			
Risk: Coronavirus entering the premises and potentially infecting users of the building			
Persons at risk: Ministers, leaders, members, attendees			
Risk Rating before control measures	Unacceptable	Risk Rating after control measures	Acceptable

Control Measures	Control in place (Y/N)	Person Responsible	Comments
Parking Arrangements to allow physical distancing to be maintained			
1. Allow occupants of adjacent vehicles to get out and commence walking to the building before you do	✓	Individuals	Good practice but not essential as physical distancing no longer applies to outdoor settings.
2. Avoid close contact with others between parking location and church premises	✓	Individuals	Good practice but not essential as physical distancing no longer applies to outdoor settings.
Entry onto Premises up to designated entrance points			
3. Temperature Checking of individuals on entry.	N/A		Not considered necessary since individuals should not be attending if they display symptoms.
4. Wall mounted sanitiser stations are located in the foyer.	✓	Lead Steward	
Accessing Seating			
5. Pre-determined seating plan	✓	Lead Steward	With the removal of formal physical distancing requirements within the building a seating plan will not be produced. However, a register of attendees will be kept. We will rely on NHS tracers to contact anyone who contracts Covid and for them to jointly determine who are deemed 'contacts'.
6. Stewards in foyer direct attendees to seats as required.	✓	Steward	2 stewards will be on duty to direct people as required and to maintain the register of attendees.

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Control Measures	Control in place (Y/N)	Person Responsible	Comments
7. All attendees wear masks / visors unless exempt.	✓	Stewards	A supply of disposable masks is available for those who wish to continue wearing them.
During the Service(s)			
8. Congregational singing is permitted	✓	Individuals	Masks can be worn by congregation if individuals choose to do so.
9. No issuing of hymn books or bibles	✓	Stewards	
10. Words appropriate to the service will be projected onto the screens	✓	Tech Team	Relay to other rooms is possible following completion PA and AV upgrade.
11. Single microphone to be allocated to and used by that person	✓	Tech Team	No additional sanitising measures are considered necessary whilst only a single meeting is held. <u>When two services are planned for it will be necessary to consider whether cleaning of the mics between services is required</u> this will depend on whether the same individual will be using the same mic.
12. Kitchen facilities will not be in use or available at any time for general use.	✓	Stewards / Individuals	Refreshments will follow the coffee morning RA.
13. Creche facilities will now be formally provided.	✓	Individuals	With the reduction in case numbers etc creche is to be reintroduced in the near future. A separate space (e.g. Room 1) where social distancing between adults can be maintained has been allocated. Toys / food / drink to be brought by the individual families and <u>not</u> shared. The service is relayed into the room.



Control Measures	Control in place (Y/N)	Person Responsible	Comments
Communion			
14. Hold it in the building & livestream.	✓		<p>Communion will be held with Elders serving members. Those who do not feel comfortable with this are free to bring their own bread and wine to mitigate risk of coming into close contact with others. Rubbish to be taken home by individuals too.</p> <p>Kitchen will only be used to prepare for communion. A small team will be organised on a rota basis. Dishwasher to be used to clean glasses etc.</p> <p>Cheer fund collection will be suspended.</p>
Collection			
15. Dissuade cash giving	✓	Leadership Team	Communicate via email / announcements
Welfare			
16. All users of toilet facilities to ensure that they apply hand sanitiser immediately before and after use.	✓	Stewards	Hand sanitiser to be located next to toilet main access door.
17. Toilets supplied with disposal hand towels (not a reusable linen towel), hand sanitiser.	✓	Cleaner / Caretaker	
18. Regular cleaning of surfaces likely to be touched regularly with appropriate sanitiser spray.	✓	Cleaner / Caretaker	<p>To be completed as part of 'normal' cleaning routine whilst few meetings being held.</p> <p>Stewards additionally wipe down surfaces during the meeting after all attendees have arrived.</p>



Control Measures	Control in place (Y/N)	Person Responsible	Comments
Egress at End of Meeting			
19. Stewards to oversee safe exit of attendees.	✓	Lead Stewards	The building is cleared with attendees leaving by main sliding doors or hall door. The egress is monitored by the stewarding team.
20. Avoid close contact with others between parking location and church premises if individuals wish to retain physical distance	✓	Individuals	Good practice but not essential as physical distancing no longer applies to outdoor settings.
21. Allow occupants of adjacent vehicles to get into their vehicles before you do if individuals wish to retain physical distance	✓	Individuals	Good practice but not essential as physical distancing no longer applies to outdoor settings.
Cleaning Between Morning and Evening Services (when held)			
22. Downstairs chairs to be sprayed with SurSol as attendees leave.	✓	Stewards	The form of the chairs is such that the metal parts of each chair are not regularly contacted by attendees. It is therefore not proposed to wipe down the metal parts.
23. Upstairs pew cushions to be sprayed with SurSol AND backs of pews to be wiped down as attendees leave.	✓	Stewards	It is proposed that the tops of the backs of the pews are wiped where people regularly contact them whilst using them as a handhold.
24. Leave gallery windows partially open between meetings to permit fresh air to enter the building.	✓	Stewards	
Refreshments			
25. Refreshments will be served using the procedures set out in the coffee morning RA	✓		



Review/Revision Record

Date of Review	Confirmed by	Comments
11/08/20	R. A. Clough	V4 – Updated during Risk Assessment Team Meeting.
15/08/20	R. A. Clough	V5 – Updated following meeting prior to submission to Elders.
21/08/20	R. A. Clough	V6 – Updated following review and acceptance by Elders (risk 33)
03/10/20	R. A. Clough / S Davies	V9 (Final) – validation walk through to confirm mitigation measures etc were in place ahead of opening on 4 th October.
04/10/20	R. A. Clough / S Davies	V10 – sanitiser locations on entry amended following feedback from morning service 04/10
24/11/20	R. A. Clough	V11 – Communion arrangements added.
22/05/21	R. A. Clough	V12 – Cleaning between services.
09/09/21	R. A. Clough	V13 – Update to reflect Alert Level 0 Guidance.
27/09/21	R. A. Clough	V14 – Update to reflect changes to communion.
09/10/21	R. A. Clough	V15 – Update to include refreshments.
04/11/21	R. A. Clough	V16 – Updated to reflect changes to stewarding arrangements.

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07/12/21	R. A. Clough	V17 – Updated to reflect changes to physical distancing.
08/01/22	R. A. Clough	V18 – Updated to reflect return to Alert Level 2 from 26th Dec 21.
29/01/22	R. A. Clough	V19 – Updated to reflect changes to physical distancing & return to Alert Level 0.
26/02/22	R. A. Clough	V20 – Updated to reflect changes guidance from 28 th Feb (masks)