

Covid-19 Risk Assessment for Opening of Church Buildings for Worship

Premises: Tabor Baptist Church, High Street, Llantrisant, CF72 8BR	Assessor's name: Sonal Khirwadkar	Date completed: 13.09.2021	Review date: When current legislation / government changes are announced
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Introduction

The previous specific guidance on Public Worship within church buildings has now been rescinded and since 5th August Public Worship is governed by the same requirements affecting most other businesses as prescribed in "Alert level 0: guidance for employers, businesses and organisations" by the Welsh Government.

Regulation 16 of the [Health Protection \(Coronavirus Restrictions\) \(No. 5\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2020](#) imposes obligations on people responsible for premises that are open to the public or where work takes place:

- To Minimise The Risk Of Exposure To Coronavirus On The Premises, And
- To Minimise the risk of spread of coronavirus by those who have been on the premises.

To achieve this, the following steps are advised:

1. Undertake a risk assessment of exposure to coronavirus at the premises
2. Provide information to those entering or working at the premises about how to minimise the risk of exposure to coronavirus
3. Ensure reasonable measures are taken to minimise risk of exposure to the virus on the premises

This document provides a risk assessment, which will be reviewed and updated in line with any substantive change to legislation and/or the guidance on the safe use of places of worship.

Version Control

Issue Date	Version Number	Issued by
23rd September 2021	2.0	Church Officers

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The following 5 risk groups have been identified (starting with the lower risk group and in ordering of increasing risk):

- Those having 2 vaccines (we believe 95% of those in attendance)
- Those only having 1 vaccine (young people)
- Those recently vaccinated in the last 14 days
- Those who have refused vaccination
- Those unable to be vaccinated on health grounds

Area of Risk	Mitigation	Controls	Date
Preaching and Singing	For people to continue wearing masks whilst singing with only the speaker being allowed to remove their mask when they are 2m away from other congregants.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To sing at quiet levels to reduce the potential transmission of virus particles 	13 th Sep 21
Physical Touching	For people to limit physical touching of objects and each other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To continue to make available provision of alcohol gel and to encourage good hand hygiene on entering and leaving the building. • To ensure toilet facilities continue to have an adequate supply of soap, hot water and disposable hand towels, and a bin for towels. Sanitising wipes shall be available within each toilet. • To ensure regular general cleaning of the church. • To ensure reduced use of hymn books and continue to use the screens. 	13 th Sep 21
Social Distancing	For people to be mindful of others who may wish to continue to practice social distancing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairs will be made available in socially distanced positions (with the upper balcony available for the same), but chairs will be increasingly brought nearer for those who wish to sit closer together. • For those who wish to chat to do this outside when possible. 	13 th Sep 21
Teas & Coffees	For people to continue wearing masks unless drinking/eating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For people to remain in the lower vestry or to go outside when eating or drinking. 	13 th Sep 21



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To help lower the risks from Covid-19, regular cleaning and opening the doors/windows to provide as much ventilation as possible will continue.

Attributable Risk

By following the above controls, it is expected that the risk to those having both vaccines will be extremely low. In addition, those with one vaccination or recently vaccinated should also see a significant reduction in risk. Those who are not vaccinated or unable to be vaccinated are welcome to join us – at their own risk.

Although we believe the above measures will significantly help those who have been vaccinated and those who have not been vaccinated, vaccination remains the most effective way to reduce the risk of Covid-19 and is not practical or desirable to return to the previous restrictions that had a significant negative effect upon the functioning of the church (for the minority who have not been vaccinated).

User Action

We ask those who are not double vaccinated to notify an Officer and are happy to provide further information on request.