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Evangelical Churches

# Leadership in Lockdown

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## Sources

- Guidance on reopening places of worship: coronavirus
- The Health Protection (Coronavirus Restrictions) (No. 2) (Wales) Regulations 2020



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## Framework

- Premises shut unless exemption
- Outdoor and indoor gatherings prohibited without 'reasonable excuse'
- Places of Worship are 'open premises'
- Charities can organise outdoor activities for no more than 30 people



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## Definition of 'Place of Worship'

Place of worship is at confined or enclosed space within buildings or outdoors, which is used for religious or belief ceremonies, collective prayer and worship or similar gatherings'

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## Legal Duties of Places of Worship

Take all reasonable measure to ensure:

- 2 metre distance maintained between any persons on the premises
- Person who wait to enter premises maintain 2m distance
- Have regard to guidance issued by Welsh government



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## Legal Duties for Charities Organising Outdoor Activities

- Maximum 30 people
- Carry out risk assessment to comply Health and Safety at Work regulations
- 2 metre distance maintained between any persons on the premises
- Person who wait to enter premises maintain 2m distance
- Have regard to guidance issued by Welsh government
- Cannot erect enclosed spaces – only an awning open on 3 sides or gazebo open on all sides

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## Congregation Size

- No limit on congregation size
- No limit on attendees at wedding and funerals
- Must adhere to social distancing requirements
- Max 30 people if organised outdoor gathering



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## Services

- Services concluded in shortest reasonable time
- Participants leave premises promptly
- Singing, changing, shouting, wind instruments should be specifically avoided
- Pipe organ played for maintenance/practice when building closed to public
- Music played at levels that do not make normal conversation difficult
- Spoken responses in worship in a lowered voice
- Only one individual sing or chant – plexi-glass screen or social distancing
- If more than one individual sings/chants during service either clean or use plexi-glass screens
- If infant involved (e.g. baptism) should be help by parent/guardian
- No obligation to wear face coverings

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## Food

- Distributing food/drink should be avoided unless integral to the worship
- Those handling wash hands before and after exchanges and avoid contact
- Maintain 2m social distance where possible
- Release into hand only
- No speaking, singing, chanting over uncovered consumables
- Consumables must be securely covered and hands washed/gloves worn before opening receptacle

## Hygiene/Cleaning

- Everyone wash hands with soap and water 20 sec when enter & leave
- Use liquid soap not bars & paper towels
- Can use hand sanitisers if soap and water not practicable
- Clean hard surfaces/frequently touched areas with warm soapy water and disinfect
- Clean between use (e.g. multiple services)

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## Vulnerable Individuals

- Those with symptoms/self-isolating should not attend
- These increased risk should minimise contact others
- May attend for their wellbeing – in which case strictly follow social distancing

## Communication

- Engage with worshippers and wider community
- Explain what activity permitted and what prohibited



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## Youth and Children

- No specific guidance for youth and children
- Welcome to attend services held inside/outside as part of their household
- Must adhere to the same social distancing measures as the adults supervising them
- Will be included in next phase guidance



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## Implications for Churches

- Legal responsibility of pastors/trustees
- Insurance issues

Welsh Government: "It is recommended that, where possible, places of worship continue to broadcast worship or other events to avoid large gatherings and to continue to reach those individuals who are self-isolating"

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