



the Fellowship of Independent
Evangelical Churches

Guidance Update: Wales

Leadership
in Lockdown



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Leadership in Lockdown

- Maintain 2m social distancing
- Face coverings mandatory inside church
- Congregational singing allowed while wearing masks after risk assessment. Singing should be avoided in areas where is 'high' disease prevalence
- Groups in homes only for up to 6 people from different households
- Hospitality after service but advised seated in groups 6 that are socially distanced with table service
- Welsh Government will reassess regulations on 7 August



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Guidance Update: England

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Legal Framework

- No requirement to wear face coverings in church
- No requirement to social distance
- No limit on size gatherings indoors or outdoors
- No restrictions on congregational singing
- No requirement to collect details for test & trace

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Legal Framework (continued)

- Same legal framework for weddings & funerals
- No restrictions on children and youth work and no requirement children kept in bubbles
- Requirement to undertake risk assessment
- Requirement to take reasonable steps to protect employees/attenders under Health & Safety legislation

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Government Guidance

- Matter for local decision-making
- No specific guidance on when singing is safe
- 'Crowded indoor space' – recommends steps to mitigate risk
- 3 key ways to mitigate risks: 1 Face-coverings; 2 Social distancing; 3 Ventilation
- Clinically extremely vulnerable advised to avoid close contact

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Practical Considerations for Churches

- Restrictions imposed by owners of rented venues (churches can impose restrictions on others if they hire their venues out)
- Will the church become a 'crowded indoor space'?
- What might this mean for maximum venue capacity/booking?
- What are the risks to the specific congregation? (i.e. local COVID rates; age of congregation; vaccine uptake; number of clinically extremely clinically vulnerable)

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Practical Considerations for Churches

- Be aware of the potential risks of mingling between younger and older people
- What provision will be made for those who want to continue to maintain social distance & the clinically extremely vulnerable?
- What will maintain church unity and enable people to feel safe to return to church?
- How will people be informed of what to expect when they attend church?

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Practical Considerations for Churches

- Will the church maintain an online option for those who do not feel able to return in person at this point?
- Church leaders respect the choices made by all members of the congregation – it is a matter of individual conscience
- Teach the congregation to respect the boundaries others want to observe – e.g. mask wearing, social distancing, touching etc
- Be patient as society adjusts to the new approach – so much will depend on COVID stats over the next 6 weeks

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Anticipating the Future

- Reimposition of restrictions in autumn
- Impact of reduced ventilation in colder weather
- COVID passports for churches

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