



the Fellowship of Independent
Evangelical Churches

Leadership in Lockdown



the Fellowship of Independent
Evangelical Churches

National Lockdown in England

Leadership
in Lockdown



the Fellowship of Independent
Evangelical Churches

What we know

- At 00:01 hrs on Thursday 5th November
- The Health Protection (Coronavirus Restrictions) (England) (No 4) Regulations 2020
- Replace all other regulations (e.g. Tiers 1-3)

Leadership
in Lockdown



the Fellowship of Independent
Evangelical Churches

What we don't know

- Places of worship guidance not yet published
- Numbers of people allowed to broadcast/record services

Leadership
in Lockdown



the Fellowship of Independent
Evangelical Churches

Overriding restrictions

- Cannot leave place of living without reasonable excuse
- Cannot participate in indoor or outdoor gatherings (two or more people are a gathering) unless is an exception

Leadership
in Lockdown



the Fellowship of Independent
Evangelical Churches

Main excuses/exceptions

- Gathering with your household, linked household, linked childcare household
- Take outdoor exercise with household or one other person (excludes child under 5)
- Work & provide voluntary/charitable services where not reasonably possible from home
- Education or training
- Provide care assistance to vulnerable person (over 70 or underlying health condition)
- Visit person in hospital/hospice/care home (and is member of household, close family member, friend)

Leadership
in Lockdown



the Fellowship of Independent
Evangelical Churches

Main excuses/exceptions

- Support group of max 15 people (not in private homes)
- Visit dying person (and is member of household, close family member, friend)
- Provide emergency assistance or enable a person to avoid injury, illness or escape risk of harm
- Attend funeral, wedding, place of worship (only if permitted gathering)
- Outdoor gathering to commemorate Remembrance Day

Leadership
in Lockdown



the Fellowship of Independent
Evangelical Churches

Penalties

- Initial fine £200 rising to maximum £6400 for repeat offences
- Personal liability of officers of 'body corporate' who have consented/connived

Leadership
in Lockdown



the Fellowship of Independent
Evangelical Churches

Implication for Churches & Ministry

- Church buildings only open for private prayer (no gathering in church = two or more people)
- Can use church building to broadcast/record service
- No outdoor worship
- Funerals for maximum 30 mourners
- Weddings with maximum 6 attenders if one party seriously ill and not expected to recover
- No gatherings for multi-household Bible Study/Prayer Meetings in church premises/homes

Leadership
in Lockdown



the Fellowship of Independent
Evangelical Churches

Implication for Churches & Ministry

- Churches can continue to provide services to community (e.g. food banks/blood donation)
- Support groups for max 15 people
- Education/training can continue
- Staff meetings/trustee meetings/volunteer meetings if not reasonably possible from home
- Care for vulnerable individuals (over 70s, medical conditions, at risk injury, illness harm)
- Is 'ordinary' pastoral visiting work?

Leadership
in Lockdown



the Fellowship of Independent
Evangelical Churches

Church Responses to New Restrictions

- Overwhelming protest from all constituencies because of lack of justification
- Letters from CofE, Catholic Bishops, Churches Together, EA, letter from church leaders
- Judicial Review launched by Christian Concern
- Threats of Civil Disobedience

Leadership
in Lockdown



the Fellowship of Independent
Evangelical Churches

Advice to Churches & Leaders

- This is a political decision by PM – don't blame the scientists or the DHCLG
- Expect the restrictions to be introduced – there is a majority of MPs in favour
- Pray for and await outcome of judicial review challenges
- Understand the consequences of civil disobedience (penalties, insurance, reputation of gospel)
- Minister to your frustrated people and community

Leadership
in Lockdown



the Fellowship of Independent
Evangelical Churches

Advice to Churches & Leaders

- Make the most of online opportunities
- Maximise personal ministry/discipleship within the law (e.g. walks outside, visits to vulnerable, linked households)
- Don't distort exceptions to justify ordinary activities (e.g. claim they are education/training/support group)
- Don't lose sight of fact thousands are ill/dying/bereaved & the heroic efforts of health care professionals and others serving the common good

Leadership
in Lockdown



the Fellowship of Independent
Evangelical Churches

Leadership in Lockdown
