

Covid-19 Risk Assessment

Version 4	26 June 2020	Updated links, moved cleaning and Action Plan and added more links under Further Information
Version 5	30 June 2020	Links for Outdoor Play Areas, Face Coverings, Capacity and mandatory to conduct a risk assessment
Version 6	6 July 2020	Added link to TMCP guidance on Test and Trace & link for revised Covid-19 Compliance sign
Version 7	13 July 2020	Updated link for CPO
Version 8	3 August 2020	Updates for hand dryers, face coverings, managing an outbreak and addition of blank pages
Version 9	8 October 2020	Added links for a sample risk assessment, Places of Worship Action Cards and Scotland & Wales Updated the risk assessment, links for signage, Test & Trace information and planning cycle Included information about Covid-19 Secure & 7 Priority actions, ventilation and First Aiders

It is a legal requirement for managing trustees to conduct a risk assessment on Covid-19 before and during use of church building¹. This includes taking reasonable steps to reduce the risk of spreading Covid-19 to those who use the building. This is called a risk assessment and it will help you manage the risk. It might help to look at a <u>sample risk assessment from the HSE</u>. You will need to consider:

- What identifying what activity or situations might cause transmission of the virus.
- Who think about who could be at risk.
- **How** decide how likely it is that someone could be exposed.
- Act to remove the activity or situation, or if this is not possible, control the risk.
- Track track incidents in an accident log book in accordance with the Health & Safety policy for the church/circuit

¹In England - https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-individual-risk-assessment-for-the-workplace/, In Wales - https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-individual-risk-assessment-for-the-workplace/, In Wales - https://gov.wales/covid-19-workforce-risk-assessment-tool

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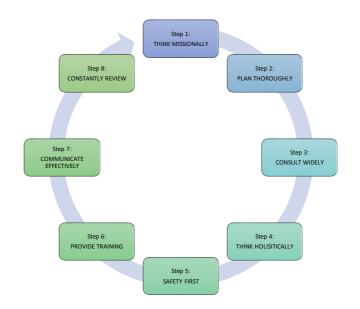
Full government guidance on Covid-19 can be found here². This assessment¹ is based on guidance from HSE's Working Safely during the Covid-19 Outbreak. For further guidance on how to carry out a risk assessment, please refer to the HSE Guidance on Risk Assessments.

All spaces that are to be used should be <u>COVID-19 secure</u>³, which means they meet the <u>7 Priority Actions for Working Safely Together</u> for opening and running as outlined in the government guidance.

Please refer to the activity specific guidance found on which will assist in thinking through the risks for each group who uses the building.

This planning process is essential, as it checks and ensures that building accommodates the requirements for opening; or highlights what other considerations need to be discussed and the building safe to open. This is a shared responsibility that 'circular' in process, not linear, i.e., each risk and action needs to time, so that processes can be monitored and changes made, if summarised in the diagram, with each heading forming an towards reopening your church building and using it safely. the

Church Building more detailed information.



the church
alternatively
agreed to make
should be
be reviewed over
needed. This is
important step
Please refer to
Re-Opening Your

Social Distancing

² In Scotland - https://www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/, In Wales - https://gov.wales/coronavirus

³ England - https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment data/file/903464/staying-covid-19-secure-2020-230720.pdf

Wales - https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-08/keep-wales-safe-at-work-five-key-steps.pdf

Scotland - https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-general-guidance-for-safer-workplaces/



Questions to Consider

- 1. In our building, where will social distancing be more difficult? You may need to review the government guidance on restrictions on capacity⁴.
- 2. What areas are more likely to increase the risk? How can we change these areas so people adhere to safe distancing guidelines? Can we re-organise our building to reduce the likelihood of spreading the virus?
- 3. Do we need to add or change things in our building to reduce the likelihood of spreading coronavirus?
- 4. If the building is listed, any changes need to be sensitive and reversible. Please consult the Conservation Officer about these changes.

Think about how to organise the building so that users and visitors can adhere to <u>social distancing guidelines</u>⁵, where possible:

- 1. Look over the sample risk assessment from the HSE to guide you through this process.
- 2. Physically arrange communal areas to keep adhere to social distancing guidelines.
- 3. Mark areas using tape or floor paint to help adhere to social distancing guidelines.
- 4. Provide signage to remind people to keep adhere to social distancing guidelines.
- 5. Using screens to create a physical barrier between people.
- 6. Use more than one exit or entry to reduce numbers in high traffic areas.
- 7. Maintaining social distancing in communal areas, including stairs and lifts.
- 8. Leave doors and windows open that can be left open (taking fire safety and security issues into consideration) to reduce the need for people to touch door handles and to assist with the circulation of fresh air. As colder weather draws nearer, the benefit of open windows and doors will need to be weighed up with the extra costs of heating.
- 9. If there are ceiling fans, air conditioning systems or heating systems which blow air, the current advice states that the need for an adequate supply of fresh air through natural or mechanical ventilation has not changed and that improving venitaltion may help reduce the risk. Please refer to please refer to HSE's <u>Guidance on Ventilation</u> or the <u>CIBSE Covid-19 Ventilation Guidance</u>.
- 10. If there is a playground, please refer to the <u>guidance</u>⁶ on outdoor playgrounds and gyms.

⁴ In Scotland – https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-phase-3-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship/

In Wales - https://gov.wales/guidance-reopening-places-worship-coronavirus

⁵ In Scotland - https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-what-you-can-and-cannot-do/, In Wales - https://gov.wales/coronavirus-regulations-guidance

⁶In Scotland - https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-phase-3-staying-safe-and-protecting-others/pages/sports-culture-and-leisure-activities/

In Wales - https://gov.wales/reopening-childrens-playgrounds-and-outdoor-play-areas-coronavirus-html



Where you cannot adhere to social distancing guidelines, you should think about:

- 1. Put in place systems such as 'one in, one out' in communal areas, such as toilets, if it is not possible to maintain social distancing.
- 2. Assigning one person per area or staggering use times to reduce the number of people in an area.
- 3. Limit access to kitchens and limit contact between those using the kitchen. The government's guidance on <u>Food Preparation during Covid-19</u> should be followed.

Good Hygiene

Questions to Consider:

- 1. Look over the <u>sample risk assessment from the HSE</u> to guide you through this process.
- 2. Ensuring there is handwashing facilities that provide running water, soap and paper towels and reminding to wash regularly for 20 seconds.
- 3. Providing handwashing facilities or hand sanitiser at entry and exit points. The government states that people should be able to wash their hands as they arrive and leave.
- 4. Frequently wipe down hand dryers. When using paper towels, bins should have liners and should be emptied frequently to safely dispose of waste. Providing hand sanitiser in multiple areas in addition to washing facilities.
- 5. Providing tissues throughout the building.



- 6. Setting clear guidance for the cleaning of toilets and kitchen facilities to make sure they are kept clean.
- 7. Using signs and posters to increase awareness of good handwashing technique reminding those in the building to catch coughs and sneezes in tissues and to avoid touching face, eyes, nose or mouth with unclean hands. Signs can be ordered from CPO or downloaded from the Methodist website. Other recommendations include:
 - a. Best Practice Handwashing Technique
 - b. Best Practise Hand Rub Technique
 - c. Hand-Washing Technique (child version)
 - d. DoH Wash Your Hands
 - e. Follow Catch it, Bin it, Kill it
 - f. Cover Coughs and Sneezes (child version)
 - g. Compliance with Covid-19 Guidance (revised)

Cleaning

Questions to Consider:

- Please refer to the <u>Cleaning Churches during Covid-19 guidance</u> (found under 'Guide to Re-Opening & Managing Church Buildings' tab) for specific guidance on cleaning regimes.
- Look over the <u>sample risk assessment from the HSE</u> to guide you through this process.

Personal Protective Equipment



- It is now mandatory to wear a face covering in indoor public spaces. However, they are not a replacement safe distancing and regular handwashing. Please refer to the <u>Guide on Face Coverings</u> for more information and a list of those who are exempt.
- Public urged not to buy medical grade masks so they can be saved for frontline health and care workers, and instead make their own face coverings at home. Click here to read more.
- CPO have offered Methodist Churches a 15% discount on PPE, click here for more information.
- First Aiders should be contacted about factors to consider during the risk assessment. Read more on Guidance for First Aiders during the Pandemic.
- Look over the sample risk assessment from the HSE to guide you through this process.

Information and Guidance

Questions to consider:

- 1. What information do those who use the building need to make sure they understand how to keep safe during the outbreak?
- 2. Who else do we need to share information and guidance with and what is the best way to do it?
- 3. How will people know when information and guidance is updated?

Making sure you pass on the correct information and guidance to those using the building is an important part of reducing risk.

- 1. Look over the <u>sample risk assessment from the HSE</u> to guide you through this process.
- 2. Decide the action steps and how to support <u>Test and Trace</u>⁸ should there be a confirmed case of Covid-19 in the building. The Government has requested that churches in England assist the NHS Test and Trace service by keeping an accurate temporary record of visitors to church premises for 21 days. Please refer to TMCP's <u>Guidance on Test and Trace</u> for further information and templates.

⁷ In Scotland - https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-phase-3-staying-safe-and-protecting-others/pages/face-coverings/ In Wales - https://gov.wales/face-coverings-guidance-public

⁸ In Scotland – https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-test-and-protect/



- 3. Be familiar with the government guidance on <u>Covid-19 Early Outbreak Management</u> and the <u>Places of Worship Action Card</u>, both of which includes instructions on what to do in the event of a confirmed case of Covid-19.
- 4. Decide if a QR Code needs to be set up for the building. More information can be found on TMCP's Test and Trace FAQ's.
- 5. Decide what people need to know so they can use the building safely.
- 6. Decide the best way to pass on information and guidance to those using the building.
- 7. Setting clear guidance and line of responsibility for the use of kitchen and toilet facilities to make sure they are kept clean.
- 8. People often need to hear messages more than once and in different ways to remember. Think about ways to reinforce the message.
- 9. Think about how to interact with those who do not regularly use the building such as visitors or delivery drivers. Plan how to share relevant information on how to socially distance, where they wash their hands and the arrangements for using communal areas.

Updating information and guidance

- 1. Be prepared by thinking about what measures can be put in place to update people in the event of adapting the current guidance.
- 2. Decide if the current ways of sharing information and guidance are enough to update people or if you need to do more.
- 3. As information is key to reducing risk, decide how you are going to make sure that everyone who needs the information gets it.

Ensure that all those who use the building know what the <u>current guidelines about self-isolation</u>⁹ are about self-isolation if they or someone in their home has symptoms. Be familiar current <u>guidance on testing</u>, ¹⁰ including on how to apply for a test.

- 1. Agree steps to take and how to inform the Test and Trace service should someone test positive for Covid-19 when in the building. It is recommended to print out the Places of Worship Action Card.
- 2. Agree how you will look after someone who falls ill in the building. Do you need to isolate them until they can go home? Where will that be? What do you need to do to clean afterwards?
- 3. Decide what support needs to be in place for the person who is self-isolating.

In Wales - https://gov.wales/test-trace-protect-html

⁹ In Scotland - https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-public-health-checks-at-borders/pages/self-isolation/

In Wales - https://gov.wales/self-isolation-stay-home-guidance-households-possible-coronavirus

¹⁰ In Scotland - https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/coronavirus-covid-19/test-and-protect/coronavirus-covid-19-testing
In Wales - https://gov.wales/apply-coronavirus-covid-19-test



Further resources

- HSE guidance on Covid-19 Risk Assessments https://www.hse.gov.uk/coronavirus/working-safely/index.htm#risk assessment
- Historic England's Guide to Cleaning Historic Surfaces https://historicengland.org.uk/coronavirus/historic-places/cleaning-historic-surfaces/
- Special religious services and gatherings Covid-19 Checklist https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship-during-the-pandemic-from-4-july/special-religious-services-and-gatherings-covid-19-checklist
- Safe Use of Places of Worship in England https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship-during-the-pandemic
- Scottish Government guidance https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-phase-3-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship/
- Welsh Government guidance https://gov.wales/guidance-reopening-places-worship-coronavirus
- Working Safely during Covid-19 www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19
- Government guidance for the public on mental health and wellbeing www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-public-on-mental-health-and-wellbeing



Covid-19 Risk Assessment for Burton Road Methodist Church – LIVE DOCUMENT

Name & Address of Church	BURTON ROAD METHODIST CHURCH, 175 Burton Road, LINCOLN. LN1 3LW	Assessment undertaken by - MARK THOMPSON
Area of Building Assessed	WHOLE BUILDING	Date of Initial Assessment – 30-JUNE-2020
		Date to be Review – 21-JUNE-2021
Dates of amendments:	30/6/20, 1/7/20, 3/7/20, 4/7/20, <mark>19/8/20</mark> , <mark>30/</mark>	08/2020, <mark>1/4/2021</mark>
Risk Assessment Unique Nam	ne – BRMC_RA_CV19	

Room Capacities	Circuit Office	ONE		
	Vestry / Meeting Room	TWO		
	Boiler Room	ONE		
	All Toilets	ONE		
	Church	TWENTY FOUR for all persons.		
	Lounge	SEVEN		
	Hall	NINE		
	Cellar	ONE		
	Kitchen	ONE		
	Cleaning cupboard	ONE		
	Hall Porch	ONE		
	Church Porch	ONE		
	Church Corridor	Maintain 2m social distancing, use accessible		
		area as crossover point.		



Hazards/Risks Think about the areas where contact takes place	Persons Affected Think of anyone who comes in contact	Likelihood 1 = Seldom 2= Frequently 3= Certain or near certain	Severity 1 = Low (minor injury) 2 = Medium (serious injury) 3 = High (fatality)	Risk Rating 1-2 = low 3-4 = medium 6-9 = high priority	Additional Covid-19 Controls – Reducing Risk Think of which prevention strategy that could be used in each scenario to reduce the spread of Covid-19 *If the building is listed, any changes need to be sensitive & reversible, please contact the Conservation Officer for further guidance.	Action Plan N° What needs to be done and by whom?
Social distancing.	All	3	2	6	2m social distancing should be adhered to in the building and people encouraged to enter and go straight to an empty seat, filling up from the front.	Put up 2m social distancing signage.
Air movement	All	3	1	3	Ensure that the doors are open to the rooms to enable air movement, the window in church and lounge to be open when occupied.	Ensure doors and windows are open.
Building occupancy / External Visitors	All	1	1	2	 Ensure that only the office staff are in the building during the declared hours of Mon-Fri 9am-1pm. No other persons should be in the building during these hours unless agreed with the office admin. Any external visitors other than to an act of worship should fill in a Health questionnaire. http://www.burtonroadmethodist.org.uk/covid-19-health-questionnaire/	
Good hygiene	All	3	2	6	Good hygiene practices should be followed, this includes the following:	3. Posters in place.4. Hand sanitiser in place at all



					 Regular handwashing, NHS signage is on display at all sinks in the building and the instructions followed. Toilets, kitchen, boiler room. Hand sanitiser should be used upon entry and exiting the building, hand washing is preferable after this. Tissues should be available in the building. Anti-bacterial wipes to be made available for wiping of door handles and touch points. Anti-bacterial wipes to be placed in toilets on a small table to enable touch points to be wiped after using the toilet, these to be placed in the bin provided and NOT flushed down the toilet. 	entrance points & hall fire exit. 5. Tissues to be obtained. 6. Anti-bac wipes to be supplied.
Stewarding	All	2	2	4	A designated steward should be at the entrance to welcome people into Church and ask to maintain 2m whilst waiting. The steward should wear a face covering and a face shield, provided. Steward to keep shield. They should welcome and explain the posters on the board, complete Track & Trace. Ask to hand sanitise and take a seat.	 7. Provide face shield for stewards. 8. Track & Trace QR code to be displayed. 9. Track & Trace slips to be on chairs.
Face Coverings	All	3	1	3	As per government guidance, it is now the law that all users must wear a face covering, unless exempt, on Church premises. One other exemption is:	10. Signage to be displayed to wear face covering.



					The government states that those leading a service in a place of worship as well as volunteers who are assisting with activities such as reading, preaching or leading prayer do not need to wear a face covering when performing those aspects of the service. When not taking part as described above then a face covering should be worn.	
Toilets	All	3	2	6	The toilets are open for use, and anti-bacterial wipes are available in each toilet. These should be used to wipe all touch points after using the toilet facilities. The external doors are propped open to remove a touch point. Hands should be washed with soap and water as per display poster after wiping touch points. Exit the toilets via the corridor, hall fire exit, sanitising hands upon exit. Re-entry to the building is via the room used external door and hands should be sanitised upon entry again.	11. Ensure antibacterial wipes are in toilets.
Informing People of what is required and what to do.	All	3	1	3	The following signage should be displayed locally. 1. NHS Handwashing technique a. https://www.berkshirehealthcare. nhs.uk/media/33429304/nhs- hand-wasing-technique.pdf	12. a. Print off and place N°1 at all sinks



		2. Catch it, bin, it, kill it.	b. Print off
		a. https://www.england.nhs.uk/sout	N°2 in
		h/wp-	each
		content/uploads/sites/6/2017/09/	room.
		<u>catch-bin-kill.pdf</u>	c. Print off
		3. COVID Secure Poster:	and sign
		a. https://assets.publishing.service.g	N°3, place
		ov.uk/media/5eb97d30d3bf7f5d36	at
		4bfbb6/staying-covid-19-secure-	entrance
		accessible.pdf	point
		4. STOP – If you have symptoms poster.	notice
		5. Please use hand sanitiser poster.	boards.
		6. Please wear face mask poster.	d. Print off
			N°4-6 and
			place at
			entrance
			points.



External contractors	All	2	2	4	Ensure that all external contractors have supplied a risk assessment for their works and with specific reference to their COVID-19 mitigations whilst working on the premises. http://www.burtonroadmethodist.org.uk/covid-19-health-questionnaire/	13. Request Risk assessment from contractors attending doing work.
Singing	All	3	2	6	Singing is not permitted during acts of worship. Loud talking or the raising of voices should also be avoided.	
Speaking	All	3	2	6	Those speaking should use the microphones provided. Microphones should not be touched and the lectern should also not be touched. Speakers are asked not to project or raise their voice as the AV system will amplify their voice. There is no need to stand up close to the microphone, this is set and should not be adjusted. A face covering can be removed when at the lectern for the purpose of speaking as part of an act of worship. This should be re-fitted before leaving the lectern and return to their seat.	



	All	1	1	2	 The preferred entrance point is the 	14. Ensure corridor
around building					external door to the room being used.	fire door, boiler
g					2. The preferred exit route should be out	room end, is not
					and through the corridor then via the hall	wedged open
					fire exit doors.	when building
					a. If using this route, then hand	unoccupied.
					sanitise before leaving building.	15. Fit maker system
					3. All internal doors with closers should be	to corridor for
					wedged open to minimise the touch	direction of flow.
					points, for rooms being used. Room	
					wedges should be removed when the	
					room is finished with and/or Fire Alarm	
					activation. These are fitted on:	
					a. Hall door,	
					b. Church door,	
					c. Lounge Door,	
					d. Toilet external doors.	
					The corridor door at the boiler room end can be	
					wedged open when occupied if required, but	
					MUST be closed when leaving the building to	
					maintain the fire segregation.	
					Attendees should refrain from moving around the	
					room and remain seated or stood directly in front	
					of it.	
					People should only move away from their seat to	
					participate in the service, visit the toilet or to	
					leave.	
					Corridor floor to be marked with direction	
					arrows.	



Supplies of Equipment	All	2	2	4	Ensure that all areas are suitably stocked with toilet rolls, soap, hand towels, hand sanitiser.	16. Weekly check by Church Property steward.
Waste	All	1	1	3	Ensure that waste bins have bin liners, and that rubbish is removed with tied bags. Bin liners are kept in Church under sink and in the accessible toilet.	17. Weekly check and provide bin liners.
Room Occupancy	All	3	3	9	Declare suitable numbers for room occupancy. Produce diagram of seating arrangements. Display room occupancy numbers on external access point to room.	18. Section added to start of risk assessment.19. Display room occupancy levels.
Track & Trace for those attending an act of worship	All	3	2	6	We need to implement a track and trace system to record everybody that enters the premises. We can achieve this in 2 ways: 1. Electronic form with QR Code inside Church. http://burtonroadmethodist.org.uk/BR/track-trace/ Paper slip with name and phone number placed on seats, persons should fill in the slip and leave in designated box. People are encouraged to use their own pen. If a Church pen is used then this will be isolated with the slips.	8. Print out and display QR code.9. Produce and print out response slips.



Confirmed case	All	1	3	3	The affected person should notify the	20. Follow guidance
of Covid-19					Circuit office and the managing trustees of	and inform
					Burton Road Methodist Church as soon as	relevant persons.
					possible and remove themselves from the	
					premises if they show any symptoms	
					whilst in the building.	
					a. https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/co	
					ronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/	
					2. The following advice should be followed.	
					a. https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs	
					-test-and-trace-how-it-works	
					3. Cleaning advice	
					https://www.gov.uk/government/publicat	
					ions/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-	
					healthcare-settings/covid-19-	
					decontamination-in-non-healthcare-	
					settings	
					a. It is suggested that a cleaning firm	
					is employed to perform this	
					cleaning if required.	



Cleaning	All				High contact areas should be wiped down with anti-bacterial wipes, • Door handles, lights switches, etc. Cleaning frequency, due to the very limited number of people on site then the normal cleaning of toilets, etc could be set at fortnightly. If the room is not to be used for 72hrs then a clean is not required.	21. Make anti- bacterial wipes available in each room for wiping contact points.
AV System	All				Only 1 person should operate the AV system to reduce a) reduce contact points and b) ensure social distancing. If 2 persons are required, then the sound desk could be split with one section on the sound desk and the other in the kitchen area, this will ensure social distancing.	22. Evaluate usage of AV system and split into 2 sections as required.
AV System Microphones	All	3	2	6	Ensure that microphones are not touched during use, once used then if not used again in 72hrs then no cleaning required. To be wiped with anti-bac wipes before use.	
Books	All	2	2	4	Any book used should be quarantined for 72hrs after use, People should be encouraged to bring their own bible or book if possible.	23. Quarantine books if used.



		It should be encouraged to use the projector	
		system to display any words.	



Circuit Service Specific.

Face Coverings Circuit Welcome Service	All	1	2	2	Those welcoming from the individual Churches should keep their face covering on at all times, the arrangement will be when welcoming the new presbyter, come to the lectern whilst maintaining the 2m social distancing.	24. Brief those attending.
Seating and movement arrangements for Circuit Welcome Service	All	1	2	2	All parties should be seated at all times. The person leading the service should be seated on the chair away from the lectern; those addressing the congregation can use the lectern but should refrain from touching it. The incoming presbyter will be seated behind the piano and use the microphone adjacent to that. Those welcoming can use the lectern to do the welcome. No physical contact will be allowed.	25. Brief those attending