

Precautions to mitigate risk of use of Church buildings

Based on Baptist Union of Great Britain (BUGB) document: [Coronavirus Essential Guidance for Baptist Churches](#)

BUGB Guideline Leaflet L18: [Covid-19 Coronavirus Legal Issues](#)

Preamble

This document lists the mitigations to be applied to events taking place in Church premises to minimise the risk to participants, officials, and volunteers of infection by corona virus Covid-19. It is an appendix to the risk assessment, "Use of church buildings – living with Covid-19".

Preparation

Anyone displaying symptoms of Covid-19 (new persistent cough, shortness of breath, loss of taste/ smell) must not attend. Posters will emphasise the point.

Posters will be displayed asking people with symptoms not to enter the building.

Vulnerable persons may be advised not to attend or otherwise in line with current government advice.

Attendees will not be required to wear a face covering, but in line with current government guidance may choose to do so.

There will be no limitation on the size of groups gathering together either inside or outside the building.

Provision may be made for individuals who fall into any of the vulnerable categories.

Control measures

On entry to the building everyone will be offered the use of a hand sanitizer.

Doors will be kept open where possible to reduce contact with handles etc. Windows may be opened to increase ventilation, depending on weather conditions.

Social distancing measures will not be required, but attendees may choose to sit apart.

Seating may be reduced in number allowing greater than normal spacing to give reassurance to attendees.

Premises will be cleaned in line with usual practices.

Toilets will be supplied with disposable towels, soap, and hand sanitizer.

All waste bins will be emptied in line with usual practice.

All test and trace requirements are removed.

Document Revision

Issue	Date	Revision
1.	12 July 2020	First issue.
2.	27 July 2020	Latest version of BUGB guidance referenced Advice to vulnerable persons extended 2m social distancing specified Provision of face masks changed from 'may' to 'will' Time building left between uses reduced from 72 hours Other minor changes made for clarity Reference to wedding procedure removed, verbal check removed
3.	12 August 2020	Title brought into line with file description Latest version (1.15) of BUGB guidance referenced Wearing of face coverings now made mandatory All waste bins to be emptied at the end of an event not just those in toilets
4.	15 August 2020	Latest version (1.16) of BUGB guidance referenced Clarification added with respect to wearing of face coverings
5.	8 Oct 2020	Revisions to cleaning and Test & Trace details. Latest BU Guidance referenced. Agreed for issue
6.	31 March 2021	Govt document updated. Gathering advice updated in line with Govt rules. Latest version (2.07) of BUGB guidance referenced. SMH/ JSR.
7.	Draft 27 Jul 2021	Precautions reduced to a minimum, but retaining some measures to give reassurance to the vulnerable.
8.	9 May 2022	Slight modifications following government removal of all restrictions. Title changed to more general "Use of Church buildings", BUGB documents made clickable.