



## Risk Assessment Form

## Tilehouse Street Baptist Church

### Risk Assessment: Use of Church building during Covid-19 emergency

#### Summary

Tilehouse Street Baptist Church is a mid-19th century worship venue designed to seat 700, but modern alterations mean it can only accommodate about 200 in seats at ground level and pews at first floor gallery level.

The site includes a hall with an auditorium seating up to 150 and smaller meeting rooms on two levels.

This assessment attempts to quantify the risk associated with holding events or worship during the Covid-19 pandemic emergency.

#### Sources of risk

Possible sources of risk are as follows:

- Infected persons entering the building and contaminating items or surfaces
- Items or surfaces previously contaminated with virus

#### 'At risk' people

The Church buildings serve varied communities. 'At risk' groups could be:

- Congregation, minister, deacons
- Elderly attending Church meetings and services
- Staff

#### Covid-19 scenario

A number of factors affect the probability of infection and its consequences:

1. The prevalence of the virus in the general population, which as of July 2020 was 1 in 2,000
2. The means of transmission: droplet infection; touch (direct & indirect)
3. The length of time in proximity or contact and the time elapsed between events
4. The type of surfaces contaminated
5. The amount of virus shed from an individual
6. The variable severity of infection from nothing at all, through mild discomfort, to severe illness and finally death.

#### Church Scenario

The risk assessment matrix takes account of two operational modes:

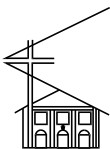
1. Occasional events prior to full reopening
2. Regular worship and meetings following reopening

#### Methodology

The Church has adopted the internationally recognised system of a 5x5 risk matrix combining probability and consequence to produce a numerical risk assessment as used in the oil, nuclear, rail and aviation industries. See the separate 'Risk assessment: Methodology' document.

Taking into account the infection rate in society and the number of attendees to meetings or worship it has been decided that the frequency of occurrence of an infected person entering and contaminating items or surface is between monthly and annually, allocated a value of 4. As the society rate declines this will decrease to annually to 10-yearly, allocated a value of 3.

Two consequences have been allowed for with different probabilities based on news reports of deaths versus infections. Zero symptoms to severe illness for multiple persons (allocated a value of 3) is considered to be a more likely outcome than a single death (allocated a value of 4). Multiple deaths as a consequence has not been considered, being less likely still.



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Item	Use of Church building during Covid-19 emergency	Applies to	Everybody							
Assessor:	Sam Hallas									
HAZARD	TYPE/ CONSEQUENCE	RISK (Before Controls) L, C, R			CONTROL MEASURES IN PLACE/ PROPOSED			RISK (After Controls)		
Infected person enters – severe consequence	Covid infection, breathing difficulty, pneumonia, death	4	4	16	See control measures below. Risk reduced to tolerable			2	4	8
Ditto – less severe consequence	Covid infection, breathing difficulty, pneumonia,	5	3	15	Ditto. Reduced to tolerable			2	3	6

Key: L= Likelihood/ Probability, C = Consequence, R = Risk = product of LxC. (1-4 = negligible, 4-9 = tolerable, >9 = intolerable)

### Control measures

A separate document, “Precautions to mitigate risk of events in Church premises”, will be prepared detailing the control measures to be taken for the two scenarios shown in ‘Church Scenario’ above. This will be based on the current advice from BUGB and the UK Government and will be updated as that advice changes.

### Summary

The control measures listed in the document referred to will reduce the risk to As Low As Reasonably Practical (ALARP).

Issue 2. 27 July 2020 (Removed children from ‘At Risk’ Group / removed #sectionA from ‘References’ / updated figure in point 1 of ‘Covid-19 scenario’). Para 2 of Methodology added value of 3 in explanation. Risk (Before Controls) table column expanded.

Issue 3. 11 August 2020 (Added Staff to ‘At risk’ people)

S.M. Hallas (Health & Safety Officer) / Revd. J. S. Robson

### References

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship-during-the-pandemic-from-4-july/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship-during-the-pandemic-from-4-july>

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