



## Coronavirus - Frequently asked questions

**The following is a list of general guidance on Coronavirus; we have also included more specific guidance relating to church worship services:**

### **1. Do I have to book to come to church?**

Yes, until further notice you will have to book to attend church services. The phone number to call is **0114 2725722**

The phone lines are open every **Wednesday and Thursday from 12 noon until 2pm until further notice**. When you call the number, you may be transferred to an answerphone. Please leave your name, the number of people you would like to book in, and your contact number and you will receive a call from a member of the team.

There are a limited number of seats available so it's best to book early.

### **2. What if I can't make it to the service?**

If you book to attend a church service and you later realise that you will not be able to attend we ask that you notify the church office as someone else may be able to attend in your place. If you can't attend, please call **0114 272572**

### **3. Can I share a private vehicle with someone from another household?**

You should try not to share a vehicle with those outside your household. If you need to, try to:

- share the transport with the same people each time
- keep to small groups of people at any one time
- open windows for ventilation
  
- travel side by side or behind other people, rather than facing them, where seating arrangements allow
- face away from each other
- consider seating arrangements to maximise distance between people in the vehicle
- clean your car between journeys using standard cleaning products - make sure you clean door handles and other areas that people may touch
- ask the driver and passengers to wear a face covering

#### **4. Do I have to wear a face covering?**

Everyone has to wear a face covering on public transport, and in shops, supermarkets, indoor shopping centres, banks, building societies, post offices, and indoor transport hubs

From 8<sup>th</sup> August, you will also need to wear face coverings in more public indoor settings such as museums, galleries, cinemas, places of worship, and public libraries.

People are also strongly encouraged to wear face coverings in any other enclosed public spaces where there are people they do not normally meet. You do not need to wear a face covering if you have a legitimate reason not to. This includes (but is not limited to):

- children under 11
- because of a physical or mental illness or impairment, or disability
- to communicate with someone who relies on lip reading
- to avoid harm or injury; to identify yourself
- to eat or drink if necessary

You can carry something that says you do not have to wear a face covering for medical reasons. This is a personal choice and is not necessary in law - you should not routinely be required to produce any written evidence to justify the fact you are not wearing a face covering.

#### **5. Has the guidance to those shielding changed?**

The guidance for the people who are vulnerable and who have been shielding has been paused from 1 August. This means:

- you do not need to follow previous shielding advice
- you can go to work as long as the workplace is COVID-Secure but should carry on working from home wherever possible
- clinically extremely vulnerable children should attend education settings in line with the wider guidance on reopening of schools
- you can go outside as much as you like but you should still try to keep your overall social interactions low
- you can visit businesses, such as supermarkets, pubs and shops, whilst keeping 2 metres away from others wherever possible or 1 metre plus precautions you should continue to wash your hands carefully and more frequently than usual and that you maintain thorough cleaning of frequently touched areas in your home and/or workspace

#### **6. Do I need to stay 2 metres apart – or 1 metre?**

Where possible people should stay 2 metres apart or 1 metre with precautions e.g. masks/face coverings etc. when it is not possible to keep a 2 metre distance. In other spaces it is advised that other things are considered such as putting screens in place

## **7. Should people wear face coverings on public transport?**

It is the law that you must wear a face covering when travelling in England on a:

- bus or coach
- train or tram
- ferry or hovercraft or other vessel
- aircraft
- cable car
- in an enclosed transport hub, such as a train or bus station

If you do not wear a face covering, you will be breaking the law and could be fined £100 or £50 if you pay the fine within 14 days. As announced, we will bring forward changes to mean that for repeat offenders these fines would double at each offence up to a maximum value of £3,200.

Please be aware that some people are exempt, and do not have to wear a face covering on public transport, including for health, age or equality reasons. A face covering is not the same as the surgical masks or respirators used as part of personal protective equipment by healthcare and other workers; these should continue to be reserved for those who need them to protect against risks in their workplace such as health and care workers and those in industrial settings like those exposed to dust hazards.

## **8. Will a face covering stop me getting Coronavirus?**

The evidence suggests that face coverings can help us protect each other and reduce the spread of the disease from someone who is suffering from coronavirus, but not showing symptoms. That is why it is important to wear a face covering on public transport and it is required by law. It is currently mandatory to wear face coverings in shops, supermarkets, indoor shopping centres, banks, building societies, post offices, and indoor transport hubs.

From 8 August, you will also be required to wear face coverings in a greater number of public indoor settings such as museums, galleries, cinemas, places of worship, and public libraries. To protect yourself, you should also continue to follow guidance on social distancing and wash your hands regularly.

## **9. Do I have to have my temperature checked before coming into church?**

Yes, we will be taking everyone's temperatures before allowing entry and if you have a high temperature you will not be allowed to enter the church building. We advise that you go straight home and self-isolate for 7 days. We also suggest that you call 111 if you are worried about your symptoms.

If you become unwell when you are at church, you will be told to return home. If your symptoms are suspected to be Covid-19 related we advise that you call 111 when you get home and that you self-isolate for 7 days. If you have a health emergency while you are at church, we will assess the situation and call the emergency services if necessary

#### **10. Can I eat or drink in church?**

Eating and drinking during church services is discouraged this is due to the way that Coronavirus is spread. There will be no Communion Service/ Lord's Supper until further notice. Drinking or eating of any kind is discouraged inside of our church and Family Life Centre.

We recognise that there may be circumstances where eating or drinking may be unavoidable such as if an individual becomes unwell or has an underlying health issue. In these situations, we ask that you speak to one of our church ushers who will advise you further.

#### **11. Can we sing as part of worship?**

Congregational singing during church services is to be avoided; this is due to the way that droplets are propelled when we sing. A small group of worship leaders may sing as part of worship, but it is advised that where worship leaders sing, they do it behind a plexi-glass screen while observing social distancing. Our worship leaders will not be singing for now and we will use pre-recorded music as part of our worship service.

#### **12. Can I pray during services?**

Yes, we can pray but this will be quite different to the way we normally pray. Prayers should be quiet and at normal speaking level rather than loud and at times shouting

#### **13. Can I worship?**

Yes, we can worship but for now the way that we worship will look and feel very different to what we are used to. Government guidance discourages any loud shouting whether this is part of worship or in our interactions with other people.

#### **14. Can I kneel at the altar?**

We discourage kneeling at the altar and any moving around the church during services whether this is a part of worship or to talk to someone. If during the service, you need to use the toilets or parent and baby room we ask that you indicate to an usher who will come to you and direct you.

#### **15. Can I shake hands?**

At the moment, the guidance is against any type of contact with people you don't live with or who is part of your support bubble, this includes hugging and any form of touching such as a fist pump

## **16. Can I give my offering?**

Yes, you can; there are a few ways that you can give an offering or tithes:

1. You can set up a standing order with your bank; either go into your branch and a member of staff will help you or you can set everything up online or over the phone if you have internet banking. Please make sure that you include your name and whether tithes or offering, the church bank account details;

***Bank: Barclays Bank PLC Sort Code: 20-76-97***

***Account Name: NTCG Sheffield; quoting reference (your surname)***

***Branch: Sheffield City Branch Account Number: 70660906***

2. You can pay by cheque; please make all cheques payable to New Testament Church of God.

3. Please bring your offering with you to church on the day in a sealed envelope. Alternatively, envelopes will be made available to you at church and you can make your donations in cash or cheque. We ask that you complete the information on the front of the envelope and place the sealed envelope in one of the buckets provided at the back of the sanctuary as you exit the building.

***Thank you for your continued cooperation***