

Summary of guidance for Places of Worship reopening



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Below is a summary of the updated key points in relation to Places of Worship, weddings and funerals. For full guidance visit [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk)

Communal worship



Limits for communal worship should be decided locally following a risk assessment on the basis of the size and circumstance (including ventilation) of the place of worship which includes surrounding grounds. The number of people permitted to enter the place of worship at any one time should be limited, so that a safe distance of at least 2 metres, or 1 metre with risk mitigation (where 2 metres is not viable) between households.



Wedding ceremonies

Numbers are restricted to no more than 30 people in attendance



Funerals

Numbers attending should be restricted and ideally not exceed more than 30 people, however the size and circumstance of the venue will determine the maximum number that can be accommodated with social distancing. Venue managers and Local Authorities can advise



Other life cycle ceremonies

Should have no more than 30 people present

Social distance measures need to be in place for all of the above

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Hygiene

Everyone should wash/sanitize their hands before and after visiting the Place of Worship



Face coverings

Whilst this is optional, it may offer protection to others. Ensure they are worn properly



Cleaning

All surfaces, especially those used frequently such as door handles should be cleaned regularly



Vulnerable

There should be a particular focus on protecting people who are clinically vulnerable and more likely to develop severe illness.



Travel

Avoid using public transport and car sharing with others not in your household to travel to Places of Worship



Food and drink

Where food or drink ('consumables') are essential to the act of worship, they can be used, however sharing of food should be avoided, as should the use of communal vessels.



Young people

Should be supervised at all times by parents or guardians



Safety

Maintain protective security of the premises, staff and visitors in particular around entry and exit points.



Cash donations

Where possible this should be avoided and the use of online or contactless is recommended. Where this is not an option, ensure money is handled by one person and ensure regular cleaning and hygiene.



Record of attendees

It's strongly advised to keep an accurate temporary record of visitors for 21 days and to assist with NHS Track and Trace, ensuring any records are GDPR compliant. Consider an online form rather than pen and paper.



Singing, chanting and use of musical instruments

People should avoid singing or playing music loudly, which may encourage shouting. This is because of the potential for increased risk of transmission from aerosol and droplets.



Enforcement

Failure to complete a COVID-19 risk assessment could constitute a breach of health and safety legislation, as could having a risk assessment with insufficient measures set out. All Places of Worship should engage with their Local Authorities.

Anyone showing Covid-19 symptoms must not attend any of the above services

Public safety is paramount – help us to help you
