

Virus Risk Assessment: Use of Main Church



For services, prayer and worship on Sundays and Midweek (Version 13)

Risk Assessment Prepared by: Sue Arnold

Date: January 2023

Approved by: Elaine Weaver

Review Due: July 2023

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Introduction

This Risk Assessment has been prepared in line with Covid -19 guidance from the Church of England, issued on 18th July 2022. [COVID 19 Guidance v3.2.pdf](https://www.churchofengland.org/covid-19-guidance-v3.2.pdf) ([churchofengland.org](https://www.churchofengland.org)) Covid 19 guidance provided by the Government for the safe use of places of worship has now been withdrawn.

The guidance recognises that whilst there is now a high level of immunity to Covid -19 within our population, it suggests that some measures are still appropriate as we transition from a pandemic to an endemic situation. Christ Church is committed to reducing the risks involved for all who attend and serve at Christ Church, and especially for those who are medically vulnerable. We also recognise the increased risk from the flu virus at the present time.

There are a number of significant changes in this updated version of the Risk Assessment (Version 13) compared to previous versions. Many of the mitigations in place in the winter of 2021/22 are no longer needed. Nonetheless there continue to be a number of significant measures in place to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 and other viruses during services, including increased ventilation, provision of hand sanitiser and robust cleaning requirements in place. Furthermore we are committed to considering the needs of all who wish to attend but prefer or need to remain socially distanced and/or wear a face covering.

We kindly request that anyone who is feeling unwell should stay at home and avoid contact with others until they have taken a COVID test, and we continue to offer provision to access many of our services and events online for those who cannot attend in person.

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What are the hazards?	Harm to who and how?	Impact (1-5)	Likelihood (1-5)	Overall Risk (IxL)	Risk Management	Actions Required: when and by whom?
Covid-19: Aerosol and Droplet Transmission of coronavirus, flu and other infections.	Aerosol & droplet transmission: healthy children and vaccinated adults	2	3	6	<p>Increased Ventilation throughout premises When the weather is fair: north transept door to be open before & during services (except when children are in the service; danger of children running into the car park is greater than Covid risk).</p> <p>When outdoor temperatures are low: doors to the church will be closed during services. If services are less than 24 hours apart, then doors will be opened for a period between services to ensure adequate ventilation</p> <p>Measures in place to reduce contact and allow social distancing as required: Stewards to suggest seating in the side aisles if safer seating is requested. Wider congregation will be asked to keep a respectful distance from anyone wearing a face covering.</p>	<p>Service warden on duty before and after services. Church wardens to check this is being done if/when on site</p> <p><i>NB. Toilets & lounge also must be ventilated when in use during worship services.</i></p> <p>Service warden & steward to direct those wearing face coverings to the side aisles if preferred.</p>
	Aerosol & droplet transmission: unvaccinated adults and vulnerable children & adults	5	4	20		

KEY:

Impact: 1 = low impact (will not cause harm), 5 = high impact (could cause fatality).

Likelihood: 1 = unlikely to occur, 5 = extremely likely to happen.

Overall risk: Impact x Likelihood = Overall risk result

If result is between 1-8, mark *green*; 9-16 *orange*; 17-25 *red*.

Shade cell according to risk so to identify risks quickly.

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Covid-19: Aerosol and Droplet Transmission of coronavirus, flu and other infections.	Surface transmission: healthy children and vaccinated adults	2	1	2	<p>Provide adequate hand cleansing stations Hand sanitiser is available for use in multiple locations, including on arrival, exit and in the main foyer. Sinks are also available in the toilets for handwashing.</p> <p>Reduce contact with shared surfaces and items. Hand sanitiser should be used when distributing items such as service sheets or Bibles.</p> <p>Ensure continued good hygiene and cleaning throughout building</p>	<p>Regular checks by Church Wardens (refilled by Cleaner as necessary)</p> <p>Service Warden, Stewards and Welcomers to ensure that foyer/step doors remain open to reduce contact</p> <p>Premises Team to replace toilet door latches handles with push panels.</p> <p>Premises Warden working with Cleaner to ensure that good practise is maintained and that soap, hand towels and cleaning products are readily available to all. PW to remind internal & external premises users to sanitise tables and areas after use.</p>
	Surface transmission: unvaccinated adults and medically vulnerable children & adults	5	1	5		

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Aerosol and/or surface transmission of Covid-19, flu and other infections.	as above	See above for risks re aerosol/droplet and surface transmission			Ask people with COVID-19 or any of the main COVID-19 symptoms or flu symptoms to stay home: many of our services and activities can still be accessed online via livestream or zoom.	Leadership team to ensure that their communications and churchsuite event descriptions encourage anyone who is feeling unwell to stay at home, avoid contact with others and take a covid test, and to recommend that anyone living with someone with covid or other infections exercises caution and uses socially distanced seating.
Aerosol and/or surface transmission of Covid-19, flu and other infections during Holy Communion.		See above for risks re aerosol/droplet and surface transmission			Bread and Wine will continue to be intincted to reduce risk of contamination. An option of the common cup is available for those who prefer this. Communicants are now invited to the rail. Anyone presiding over Holy Communion must take a lateral flow test & wear a face covering	Sacristan to use hand gel and those presiding or assisting to use hand gel and wear a face covering. President to ensure that hand gel and spare face coverings are available.
Use of main church after known exposure to someone with Coronavirus symptoms	Other premises users and cleaner	See above for risks re aerosol/droplet and surface transmission			If activity can continue in an alternative space this should be arranged. Otherwise the space should be well ventilated for 2 hours and surfaces cleaned before use. Arrange deep clean as soon as possible.	Premises Warden to liaise with the Cleaner to determine when the space can next be cleaned. Cleaner to be informed of coronavirus case in order to take necessary precaution

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