

## “Keeping Everyone Safe”

### Measures to reduce the risk of Coronavirus infection

The UK Government is now asking individuals in England to exercise their own personal judgement in how they manage the risks of Coronavirus to themselves and others, while relying on widespread vaccination to mitigate impact of the disease.

However, churches are still bound by general Health & Safety legislation, which brings an obligation to manage the risks to those who attend their buildings or events. Each individual’s attitude and practise may be different, but everyone needs to respect that there will be some people who still feel very cautious and vulnerable.

**Blisworth Baptist Church will take the following measures to help keep everyone safe:**

#### General use of the buildings

<b>Ventilation</b>	Doors will be opened, where and when possible, in order to allow for movement of air.
<b>Cleaning</b>	Regular cleaning of areas and surfaces will take place two times a week. Where food is involved, thorough cleaning of surfaces will be done both before and after use. Enhanced cleaning will take place after a known case of Covid is reported.
<b>Hand hygiene</b>	Everyone will be encouraged to practice good hand hygiene. Hand sanitisers will continue to be provided upon entry & exit. In areas where hand washing is needed, then paper towels will be provided along with pedal bins for their disposal.
<b>Face coverings</b>	Face masks will continue to be available for those who wish to use one, and haven’t brought their own with them.
<b>Social distancing</b>	Everyone will be encouraged to keep sensible distances between themselves and others who do not live in their own household. Where possible, seating and tables will be more spaced out. In the Chapel, socially distanced seating (with signage to leave rows empty) will be available in side pews.
<b>Signage/Posters</b>	Signs and posters will be displayed to remind people about “Hands, Face, Space”, encouraging everyone to continue taking measures to reduce risks.

## **Church services and Church meetings**

**Services and meetings** will continue to operate in a hybrid format, allowing those who choose not to attend in person to join via the internet (Zoom).

**Seating in the Chapel** will continue to provide opportunity for socially distanced seating in side pews.

**Offering:** Those asked to collect the offering will continue to wear a face covering.

**Communion:** Bread will continue to be pre-cut in to small pieces and wine will be served in individual cups. Those asked to serve Communion will continue to wear a face covering and gloves.

## **Use of the buildings by non-church groups or organisations**

Non- church groups or organisations are responsible for managing their use of the building, and this includes having their own risk assessment and measures to manage the risks relating to Coronavirus.

## **Handling cases of Coronavirus in the Church**

Where the Church is made aware of a positive case of Coronavirus then it will inform people, as far as is possible and considered practicable to do so, through normal church communication channels and to leaders of non-church groups and organisations.

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