

OUR CHURCH'S RESPONSE

TO COVID-19

Jesus Touch Ministries, Heywood

*We shall not fear but trust in the
Lord and we shall be safe (Prov 29:25)*



Guidance

COVID-19: guidance for the safe use of places of worship: JESUS TOUCH MINISTRIES, HEYWOOD, 1ST FLOOR, 15-17 MARKET STREET. OL10 1HX.

JESUS TOUCH MINISTRIES, HEYWOOD COVID-19 GUIDELINES ON CHURCH WORSHIP.

VERSION: This is the UPDATED version as of today **Friday 8 January 2020**.

Introduction:

This guidance is based on the UK Government's Guidance for the **safe use of places of worship** as detailed out on the Government website link :

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

and updated as of **Friday 8 January 2021** as it applies to **Jesus Touch Ministries, Heywood**.

Who is this for?

This guidance is for the attention of all members, visitors, neighbours, those in the community, and anyone who might have occasion to worship with us during any of our in-person face to face services.

It is our duty and obligation to ensure your safety during the time you attend our worship services so we will insist that if you are to visit our premises at any

time during this coronavirus pandemic you will need to read these guidelines and agree to abide with them whenever you are registering to attend.

Please take note that we are entitled to keep a record of your contact personal details and of your attendances as required by the authorities.

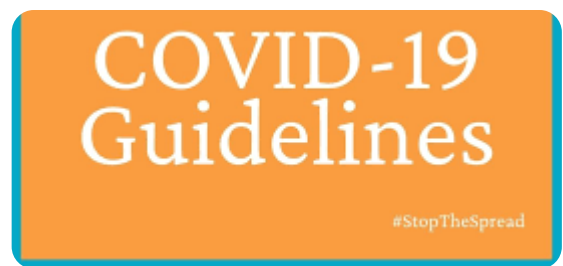
Issues not covered in this guideline.

This guideline should be read giving consideration that not all questions relating to all issues on the Coronavirus lockdown as it concerns our organisation can be **answered here** therefore we expect anyone in doubt of anything whatsoever to contact us personally for more clearance. The person to contact directly on this issue is

Pastor Stephen Kosh

E-mail: jesustouchdirect@gmail.com

Mobile: 07985372343



Version:

We will always update this **guidance document** and clearly communicate each time this is done. Please do care to visit here or request for updated copies (versions) always to check any additions and/or revisions.

Guiding Principles:

As we decide to open our church premises for worship, Our Leadership is committed to abiding with all regulations to the fullest extent possible, guided by the following principles:

1. We, as a church need to provide fellowship, and religious services to the needy, lonely, desperate, and all who are in want of prayers according to the command of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Spirit of Love. Therefore we class our services as **Essential services**.
2. We give priority to the health and safety of both our church membership and the community. We will always give highest consideration to the vulnerable and this will be reflected in all our planning.
3. Our decisions in response to the COVID-19 crisis will be informed and guided by advice from Places of Worship experts and faith leaders,

governmental guidance, and whatever we personally learn from practical experiences.

4. We will be ambitious in solving problems and creating solutions. We will adhere to all rules in the interest of the health of all who need to visit our premises.
5. We will proactively engage the community during the crisis as part of our commitment to continually improve our response.
6. We will responsibly plan for multiple scenarios, enabling us to shift or pivot with agility and preparedness...

Local Restriction Tiers and National Lockdowns.

Based on the recent regionally differentiated approach to controlling transmission of the virus, where different tiers of restrictions apply in different parts of the country, **we are now under National Lockdown.**

Coronavirus cases are rising rapidly across the country. As at this afternoon, the mayor of London has declared it as a major incident. This means there is a higher risk of contacting the virus if adequate measures are not put in place.

Find news in this link:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-55588163>

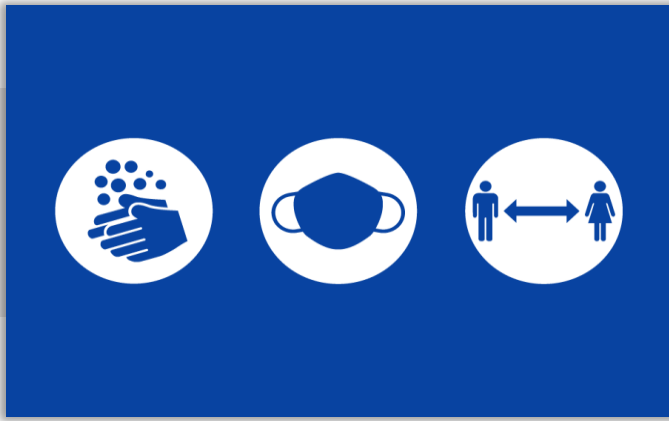
For details on what can or cannot be done in our area during a national lockdown, please check the following link :

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home>

Government Regulation on Places of worship during a national Lockdown:

You can attend places of worship for a service. However, you must not mingle with anyone outside of your household or support bubble. You should maintain strict social distancing at all times.

You should follow the [national guidance on the safe use of places of worship](#).



Measures we have put in Place:

Restriction on Capacity:

Our church premise will normally accommodate about **90 people**.

We have now **opened up more space** and putting all measures in place can now comfortably allow **30 people** under the current **covid-19 rules**.

This is based on our **completion of risk assessments** in consultation with all our volunteers, members, and all stakeholders.

Registration and Pre-booking arrangements:

If you will be coming to be part of our worship as a first timer , we will have to register your visit and confirm you can get a space allocated to you.

For all current members, we have already designed a register to record all attendances and sitting arrangements.

Please contact us on **Phone no: 07931824409** to book a place in case you want to come into any of our meetings.

Minimisation of Duration of Worship and In- Person meetings.

Due to the Covid-19 Situation, all other meetings apart from **Sunday worship** or its equivalent (as determined by the stakeholders) will now be done online.

All the following meetings will continue to be transferred to online until further notice:

- Bible Studies on Thursdays
- Prayer meeting on First Wednesdays and Last Fridays of the month.
- Children meetings and Sunday School.

- Youth meetings.

Choir meetings will still be done in the premises as it has been determined that the members of the band are few in number (6 altogether) and have also formed a household and Support bubble.

To understand more on Household Bubbles Please visit this government website:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/making-a-support-bubble-with-another-household#christmas-bubble>

Entry times.

Although our church premises has only one entrance door, the number of people who come in does not give us any issues with clustered entries. Meanwhile our Ushers have been trained to ensure that only one person is allowed at the entrance door at one time.

Gathering outside our place of worship.

You will be expected to observe our rule of gathering outside our premises.

You cannot be close less than 2 meters to another person if they are not members of your household. You must wear a facemask. You cannot shake hands or exchange any handled item(s).

Contacts between people must be avoided including handshakes, hugs, and laying of hands.

Mingling after worship is not also allowed except for people who are of the same household or who form a bubble. Any interaction(s) outside the time of worship inside the church must be short, and with caution of the social distancing measures.

Those who cannot attend our communal worship gathering:

The following must not come for our Sunday communal worship services but stay at home and link up with us on the social media. We will always broadcast on Zoom, Facebook, and YouTube. You can get details from our enquiry number 07931824409 or check our website: www.jesustouch.org.uk



- i) If you are showing any of the signs or symptoms of Covid-19.
- ii) If you are self-isolating because of possible or actual Covid-19 in your household or told to do so by the NHS Test and Trace.
- iii) If you have an underlying illness or you consider yourself vulnerable.

Use of Items:

We will not share any items during worship time. Books that are used for Purpose Driven Life are usually quarantined for more than 48 hours before and after use.

Use of Microphones.

We must ensure that every member of the choir is made to stick to their allocated microphones. Every speaker must use a different microphone and in cases where this is not practically possible the microphones must be sanitised and covers replaced for another person to use.

Sharing of Food.

Due to the prevailing circumstances food will not be shared at all after church meetings during this time.

Congregational Singing and Raising of Voices during Prayers

We have done all possible to ensure there are no face-to-face performances. Our sitting arrangement also does not allow people to face each other. In view of the present chair and people arrangement, such that members of the same household are the closest in sitting gaps, we allow singing by members as long as they do not shout nor raise their voices. However during more severe restrictions, we would demand that everyone needing to sing must wear face covering masks.

Hand Hygiene

We require everyone entering and leaving our worship hall to use our hand sanitisers to wash their hands. Our ushers at the entrance will ensure this is done before you can be allowed into the auditorium.



Social Distancing and Wearing of Face masks

We have arranged our seats to comply with our procedures of social distancing. You can only sit together as a family as long as you are no more than six in number. However, face masks must be worn at all times especially during singing and or loud praying.

Overall Decision:

With the current rate of Coronavirus infections and the National Lockdown regulation It is our current decision as a church to use the premises only for broadcast of worship until further notice while we ask all members to stay at home and join us virtually.

Notice:

These guidelines have been written just as a guide and must not be totally relied upon or as the whole instructions on the matters of Covid-19.

Please always refer to the other websites and literatures listed on the Government websites for more detailed advice.

Jesus Touch Ministries Leadership.

December 2020.