

IVYBRIDGE BAPTIST CHURCH RISK ASSESSMENT - November 2021

The latest government guidance document at the time this risk assessment it written can be found here - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship>

The Church leaders want to create an environment that allows our church family to worship the Lord together in a meaningful way, but also adheres to government guidance for the safety of those attending from Covid-19.

Emergencies: In the event of a fire, saving lives will override social distancing.

Risk / Area of Concern	Risk Controls	Action to take
Lapses in following governmental guidance	Monthly check of updates on government web-site and any relevant advice provided by the FIEC.	The pastor to update as necessary
At risk groups attending services	Those classed as extremely vulnerable should continue to be cautious. They and others, who still feel very nervous about returning to church services, are encouraged to attend our evening service, where numbers are fewer and it is easier to remain very socially distanced.	Individual responsibility

<p>Close contact on entry, while seated & on exit</p>	<p>It is no longer compulsory to wear a face mask, although some in our congregation are still choosing to wear one.</p> <p>We have recommenced congregational singing.</p> <p>Signage will remind people as they come in to maintain social distancing as far as possible. We are using alternate rows of seating and recommend only people from the same household or social bubble sit together.</p>	<p>The church leadership team to encourage compliance</p>
<p>Incoming people infecting surfaces</p>	<p>Hand sanitizer will be available and people will be asked to use it on their way in and on their way out.</p> <p>Internal doors will be propped open where possible to avoid multiple touch and keep a flow of air through the building.</p>	<p>The cleaning team to check & replenish stocks of hand sanitizer and undertake cleaning on a weekly basis</p>
<p>Overcrowding in the building</p>	<p>The maximum capacity of the building with social distancing is around 45. On the web-site potential visitors will be encouraged to contact the church in advance and say how many will be attending.</p>	<p>Numbers will be monitored by a nominated person, a list kept of attendees and contact numbers of visitors obtained. This is for 'track & trace' purposes if an infection is identified and will be kept for 21 days.</p>

<p>Spreading infection within the building</p>	<p>No collection bag will be passed around.</p> <p>Communion involving bread & juice will be prepared and distributed at the time of communion using disposable cups & trays, by someone wearing appropriate PPE.</p> <p>Songs & bible readings will be shown on the screen and people encouraged to bring their own bibles. Song books & bibles will be provided for those who want them.</p> <p>Afterwards, the user must place them in a box marked for the purpose & quarantined for 72 hours.</p> <p>Signage will remind attenders to catch coughs & sneezes in a tissue or in the crook of the arm and to avoid touching face, eyes, nose or mouth with unclean hands.</p>	<p>The church leadership team to encourage compliance</p>
<p>Toilets a particular source of infection</p>	<p>Attenders are encouraged to use their own toilet facilities at home beforehand.</p> <p>Hand sanitizer is available at the toilets and is to be used before and after use. People should wash their hands for 20 seconds and wipe all surfaces they have been in contact with, using anti-bacterial wipes. Signage will remind people to do this.</p>	<p>The toilets will be cleaned thoroughly by the cleaning team</p>

Households with children	A creche will be provided during the 2 nd part of the Sunday morning service for children under 5 in the back room. No-one else may enter the room except creche helpers and parents / guardians of the children. Due to limited space, no more than 5 families may attend the creche. Children will be kept in the room until collected by a parent / guardian	Parental responsibility overseen by the elders.
An infected person attending church	<p>Anyone exhibiting any symptoms of the virus (high temperature, new and continuous cough, loss or change to sense of taste or smell) must not attend the church.</p> <p>If someone arrives showing symptoms of the virus they will be asked to go home immediately & arrange a covid test. Households with an infected member do not need to self-isolate if fully vaccinated or under 18, but should have a negative test before attending church.</p> <p>If someone becomes unwell during the service and cannot get themselves home, they will be placed into the back hall kitchen where there is a first-aid point and help summoned (helpers will put on PPE).</p>	<p>The person dealing with the situation is to wear PPE.</p> <p>The area must be thoroughly cleaned after use & PPE disposed of safely.</p> <p>PPE & cleaning equipment to be available within easy reach.</p>
Outside groups using the building	Outside groups won't be able to use the building for the time being. However, when this advice changes, groups will be required to comply with all the guidelines laid down by the church trustees and demonstrate how they will do that.	