

Recommencing Church Services Policy

31/07/2020

We take the Government's Covid secure guidance seriously and have undertaken a risk assessment.

We consider the risk of spreading any infection as low but manageable due to the following guidelines:

Hand washing: We expect everyone to use the provided hand sanitizer when entering the building. Paper towel dispensers are installed in the toilets.

Contact: We expect people to keep the recommended distance from each other when they are in the Church building. Any contact closer than the recommended distance, should be less than 15 minutes.

Seating: A space of 2 metres will be left between each row of chairs. We expect people who are not in the same household or household bubble to leave a space of at least 2 seats between them and the next person.

Bibles: We encourage everyone to bring a Bible to Church for their own use.

Church Offerings and gifts: Church offerings and gifts can be deposited in the Offering receptacle upon arrival at the Church.

Communion: Put on hold until further guidance.

Refreshments and meals: Put on hold until further guidance.

Cleaning: Surfaces likely to have been touched by people will be cleaned after each Service. Antibacterial wipes/spray will be provided to clean surfaces in the toilet facilities.

A letter detailing our Covid-19 guidelines will be sent to all congregants before recommencing our Church Services on July 5th—see below:

Policy Agreed

30th June 2020

31st July 2020

Government Guidance update

Starting from 8th August, the Government's Covid-19 precautions include mandatory face coverings in Places of Worship. That means, starting from next weekend, everyone is required to wear a face covering or face visor when we meet together. In order to protect our vulnerable members, if you are not able to wear a face covering, we would kindly ask that you do not attend our Church activities until the restrictions are eased. The weekly sermon will be videoed and uploaded to our website to watch during the week. The notes are also available by email or from our website and we will continue to use Zoom for our evening Bible Study meetings.

9th July 2020

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Form: DPC-033-Recommencing Church Services

31/07/2020

Deal Pentecostal Church

Government Guidance update

Led devotions

- There should be no group singing inside places of worship when worshippers are present.
- From 11 July, outside only, small groups of professional singers will be able to sing in front of worshippers. Singing in groups should be limited to professional singers only and should be limited to a small set group of people. Both the singers and the worshippers should be outdoors.
- Indoors - where essential to an act of worship, one individual only should be permitted to sing or chant, and the use of plexi-glass screens should be considered to protect worshippers from them, as this will further prevent transmission and the screen can be easily cleaned. Where music plays a big part in worship, and recordings are available, we suggest you consider using these as an alternative to live singing.
- You are advised only to play musical instruments that are not blown into. Organs can be played for faith practices, as well as general maintenance, but should be cleaned thoroughly before and after use.

Broadcasting

- Groups of professional singers are now able to rehearse and record indoors for broadcast (*see the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport guidance for information on how this can be done safely*).

Congregational activity

- Except for the limited circumstances outlined above, people should avoid singing, shouting, raising voices and/or playing music at a volume that makes normal conversation difficult or that may encourage shouting. This is because of the potential for increased risk of transmission from aerosol and droplets.
- Therefore, spoken responses during worship should also not be in a raised voice.
- Activities such as singing, chanting, shouting and/or playing of instruments that are blown into should be specifically avoided in worship or devotions. This is because there is a possible additional risk of transmission in environments where individuals are singing or chanting as a group, and this applies even if social distancing is being observed or face coverings are used.

Deal Pentecostal Church

Letter

It is with great joy that I can announce we will recommence our Church Services this Sunday (5th July).

If you have symptoms of Covid-19 or are quarantined, you **must not** attend the Church Services until you have completed your isolation period and if you are shielding you should not attend Church Services until the shielding restrictions are lifted. However, we will be videoing our services and they will be available to view on our Church website.

Our Services will be different because we will adhere to the Government's Covid-19 guidelines. Our worship will be expressed in sharing of testimonies, giving thank offerings and appreciating hymns *via* video—no touching microphones though! Church offerings and gifts can be deposited in the Offering receptacle upon arrival at the Church. Communion, refreshments and shared meals are suspended until further notice. Sunday School and shared facilities for children, including toys, books, paper and crayons will **not** be available during this interim period.

To comply with the recommended 48 hour quarantine for books, etc., we will hold our Bible Study at the Church on Wednesday mornings from 10.00am–11.00pm. We will also hold a Bible Study by Zoom on Wednesday evenings from 8.00pm–8.40pm.

Please note, we are required to keep a record for 21 days of all those who attend each Service in case there is a local outbreak of Covid-19.

We have undertaken a risk assessment and ask for your cooperation in following these guidelines:

Please

- ✓ Use the provided hand sanitizer when entering and exiting the building.
- ✓ Maintain the recommended distance between yourself and others.
- ✓ Sit together in households or household bubbles and leave a space of at least 2 chairs between households.
- ✓ Bring your own Bible to Church (we will also project the Bible readings onto the Screen).
- ✓ Use the provided antibacterial wipes/sprays to clean any surface you touch in the toilet facilities.

Face coverings will not be provided as evidence currently suggests that wearing a face covering does not protect you. However, if you are infected but have not yet developed symptoms, it may provide some protection for those you come into close contact with.

Fellowship is integral to our faith and so we would encourage people to meet together in small groups within the Government guidelines—but please ensure that you leave the Church building promptly after the Service to avoid any “*pinch-points*” that might increase the likelihood of an infection. To help avoid queuing, both doors to the Church will be open.

The Church's Policy for Recommencing our Services is available upon request and is on our Church Noticeboard and Website.

The Government's advice on Covid-19 is constantly being updated and we will update our guidance accordingly

Please ask if you have any questions.

*Your Pastor
Paul*