

Our response to the Relaxation of Government Legal restrictions

February 2022

As restrictions ease once again, and greater responsibility falls on us as individuals and as a church family, we will continue to be considerate of everyone who enters our church building making it as safe and comfortable as possible. Having taken advice from both denominations, we will continue to implement the following measures.

- We will avoid coming to Church if we have been advised to isolate or have Covid-19.
- We will continue to distance chairs where possible, to give reassurance and continuity.
- We will continue to offer, and encourage the use of, a 'traffic light' sticker system as a visual cue to help us all feel safe and at ease:
 - o Red (heart): I prefer people to keep socially distanced from me.
 - o Amber (star): I am happy to waive social distancing but would like to avoid handshaking or close contact.
 - o Green (circle): I may be open to handshaking and a hug with those I know and if it's appropriate.
- We will continue to wear masks in crowded spaces (unless exempt).
- Singing is permitted; however, we encourage everyone to keep their masks on while singing.
- We will provide a specific area at the rear of the church and the balcony for those who are anxious or wish to have extra space.
- We encourage people to move to a different space if they feel uncomfortable at any time during the service...it's not personal and we respect people's need to do this.
- We will continue to use hand sanitiser, clean surfaces etc.
- In March, pending a review, we will provide tea and coffee at the beginning and end of the service. You may wish to bring your own cup. We ask that you sit to drink and only remove your mask once seated.
- We will continue to ventilate the building as best we can by keeping doors open during services.
- When gathering after the service, we will meet outside of the building if possible.
- We will continue to share communion using small cups and will reintroduce the chalice when appropriate.

- We can car share within the appropriate guidelines. If you would like a lift to church, or you feel able to offer someone a lift, please contact the Church office for more details.
- We will continue to reduce, wherever possible, the use of shared documents. Anyone who doesn't yet receive the newsletter by email and would like to be kept up-to-date, please contact the church office or ask a member of your home group / friend or neighbour to print you a copy.
- The weekly talk /sermon will be recorded (audio version) and placed on the website as per pre pandemic.
- We will be facilitating prayer ministry in a safe way. The Host Team will be on hand to advise and reassure you if you have any questions; please follow their directives. With doors open for ventilation, parents and carers are reminded that the security and safety of their children remains their responsibility at ALL times (except when they're in one of the children's groups with a group leader on a Sunday morning).

We review these measures every week and will keep you updated of any change. Please pray that all these recommendations would allow us to regather in Worship and fellowship in a sustained and appropriate way over the coming weeks and months.

Blessings, The Leadership Team on behalf of the ECC