

Clarence Park Baptist Church

Covid-19 Update

On Face coverings and more

27th January 2022



From January 27th 2022 the rules relating to wearing face coverings will be changed in England.

The current Government advice on the UK Gov web site www.gov.uk/coronavirus is that from 27th January 2022 “You will not be required to wear a face covering, but the government suggests you continue to wear one in crowded and indoor spaces where you may come into contact with people you do not normally meet”.

The Current Situation

The current situation across England is that while coronavirus is present in most communities, we have a population where previous infections and the national vaccination programme means the majority of people have some immunity. However, levels of immunity vary individually and some people will continue to be significantly vulnerable to the virus and its potential long-term effects.

As a Church we believe that everyone is known and loved individually by God and that as many members within one body we are called to be responsible to and for one another, respecting the more vulnerable whose suffering is our suffering (1 Cor 12:12-27). And so, as a church community we need to move forward conscious that Omicron is now the dominant Covid variant. Knowing that it is highly transmissible and that the new infection rate in North Somerset has in recent weeks fallen slightly only to rise again. We need to move forward respecting the needs of those who remain vulnerable to not just infection but also the effects of long covid and adjust our practice as we respond to government guidance.

Moving forward we cannot just rely on vaccinations to protect us we also need to continue to ensure we do what we can to help support one another. Therefore, all building users are asked to take the following into consideration when meeting:

VENTILATION

- Rooms should continue to be well **ventilated** when being used. Windows and doors need to be open to allow for appropriate air flow.
- Health and safety executive guidance continues to be that we do not use our **ventilated heating systems** when people are present (*this continues to limit the use of heating in both the sanctuary and the North Room*). The Church leadership are continuing to seek advice from a number of qualified heating engineering companies on a way forward for the church sanctuary.

SANITISING,

- **All people entering the building** should wash their hands regularly and make regular use of the sanitiser that is provided when entering and moving around the building.

Surfaces should be wiped after use using the sanitiser which is provided.

SIGNING IN.

- From 27th January 2022 we will no longer use the QR code or signing in sheets for those coming into the building or attending an activity.

FACE COVERINGS,

- We would ask that all people consider the government suggestion quoted earlier relating to the wearing of Face coverings. However, as a church we will not enforce them being worn which will include for the congregation whilst singing (*which was our position before Plan B came into force on the 10th December 2021*).

SUNDAY SPECIFIC

- **Social Distancing** is no longer mandatory, but we would ask everyone to be considerate of those who wish to continue maintaining a suitable social distance from others. On a Sunday Red Cross Signs will remain available from the foyer to place on the seats next to you in order to help with requesting that others are mindful of your requirement for space.
- **Communion** will continue to be prepared and served following our covid risk assessment as it has for the last 6 months.
- **Refreshments:** In the next few weeks we will consider serving refreshments after the morning service once we know that the rotas that were put in place recently can all be fulfilled.

The church leadership will continue to monitor the guidance from both the government and the Baptist Union and announce further changes where appropriate.

Please do not attend a group or a church service if you have any covid symptoms, are asked to self-isolate or if you have recently tested positive for Covid.