

Covid-19 is an illness that can affect your lungs and airways. It is caused by a virus called Coronavirus. C-19 Symptoms can be mild, moderate, severe or fatal.

This Risk Assessment for dealing with the current Covid-19 situation in Church Buildings . It is not likely to cover all scenarios and each minister; volunteer, parishioner and visitors should consider their own unique circumstances. To keep up to date with advice for worship buildings in this fast-changing situation visit <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus> and www.northamptondiocese.org

What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed	Controls Required	Additional Controls	Action by whom?	Action by when?	Done
Spread of Covid-19 Coronavirus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priest • Deacon • Ministers • Stewards • Parishioners • Visitors to the premises • Cleaners • Contractors • Drivers • Vulnerable groups – Elderly, Pregnant workers, those with existing underlying health conditions • Anyone else who physically comes in contact with each other in 	<p><u>Hand Washing</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand washing facilities with soap and water in place. • Stringent hand washing taking place. • See hand washing guidance. • https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/best-way-to-wash-your-hands/ • Drying of hands with disposable paper towels • Staff encouraged to protect the skin by applying emollient cream regularly • https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/emollients/ • Gel sanitisers in any area where washing facilities not readily available • All Visitors/worshippers to have their name and contact details 	<p>All people to be reminded on a regular basis to wash their hands for 20 seconds with water and soap and the importance of proper drying with disposable towels. Also reminded to catch coughs and sneezes in tissues – Follow Catch it, Bin it, Kill it and to avoid touching face, eyes, nose or mouth with unclean hands. Gel sanitisers will be made available throughout the Church</p> <p>To help reduce the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) reminding everyone of the public health advice – https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus</p> <p>Posters, leaflets and other materials are available for display. https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19</p>	ALL	ONGOING	

	relation to attending St. Francis Church	to be recorded or they must use the Test and Trace NHS QR code .	frailer of this requirement will mean that the person will not be admitted in to church.			
As above	As above	<p>Face Coverings</p> <p>Some tasks require a face covering or mask as part of an additional risk assessment or government guidance. You are to wear a face covering in enclosed public spaces where social distancing may be difficult and where you come into contact with people you do not normally meet.</p>	<p>Follow the risk assessment and government guidance for each situation. See church method statment</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own</p>			
As above	As above	<p>Cleaning</p> <p>Frequently cleaning and disinfecting objects and surfaces that are touched regularly particularly in areas of high use such as door handles, light switches, reception area using appropriate cleaning products and methods.</p>	Rigorous checks will be carried out by line managers to ensure that the necessary procedures are being followed.			
As above	As above	<p>Social Distancing</p> <p>Social Distancing -Reducing the number of persons in any area to comply with the 2-metre or 1,5m + [face coverings] gap recommended by the Government</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people</p>	<p>All people to be reminded on a daily basis of the importance of social distancing both in the church and outside of it.</p> <p>The Priest/Deacon checks to ensure this is adhered to.</p>			

		<p>Taking steps to review service schedules including start & finish times. Reduce numbers of Parishioners in church at any one time. Also introduce attendance booking system at Festivals</p> <p>Redesigning processes to ensure social distancing in place.</p> <p>Conference calls to be used instead of face to face meetings.</p> <p>Social distancing also to be adhered to in other area of the church building..</p>				
<p>As above</p>	<p>As above</p>	<p><u>Cleansing/washing of Chalcis and Patton</u> After every mass holy vessels to be washed in hot soapy water for at least 30 seconds Vestments must be removed immediately after the mass/service is finished.</p> <p><u>PPE</u> <i>Public Health guidance on the use of PPE (personal protective equipment) to protect against COVID-19 relates to health care settings. In all other settings individuals are asked to observe social distancing measures and practice good hand hygiene behaviours</i></p>	<p>Staff to be reminded that wearing of gloves is not a substitute for good hand washing</p> <p>Disposable gloves, aprons & masks are only used where needed, reusable items are cleaned between uses.</p>			

<p>As above</p>	<p>As above</p>	<p><u>Symptoms of Covid-19</u> If anyone becomes unwell with a new continuous cough, loss of taste or a high temperature in the church they will be sent home and advised to follow the stay at home guidance. Priest/Deacon to maintain regular phone contact with parishioners during this time.</p> <p>If the Clergy are affected by C-19 then they must follow the Northampton Diocese requirement for notification and self isolation.</p>	<p>Internal communication channels and cascading of messages through pastoral team will be carried out regularly to reassure and support all in a fast changing situation.</p>			
<p>As above</p>	<p>As above</p>	<p><u>Mental and Spiritual Health</u> Priest/Deacon will promote mental health & wellbeing awareness to all during the Coronavirus outbreak and will offer whatever support they can to help Reference - https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/coronavirus-and-your-wellbeing/ https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/</p>	<p>Regular communication of mental and Spiritual health information and 'open door' policy for those who need additional support.</p>			

<p>Hand sanitiser in eyes or consumed due to increased amount & high alcohol content</p>	<p>As Above</p>	<p>Hand sanitiser</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small dispensers will be used and topped up as needed • Children will be monitored with use • Dispensers will not be left outside unless attached to walls • Product details will be on the container • COSHH data sheet available in case of incident 	<p>Priest/Deacon & volunteers will check any repurposed containers have appropriate labels on.</p> <p>COSHH data sheets updated if products change.</p>			
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This risk assessment to be read in conjunction with St Francis of Assisi Church Covid-19 Method Statement and other information and requirements to be found on the Northampton Diocesan website for Covid-19 requirements of Churches in the Diocese www.northamptondiocese.org