

LIFE CHURCH

BATH

MEETING IN THE FORUM

25 JULY 2021 ONWARDS



21 July 2021

Introduction

We recognise that this is a very vulnerable time for many in our church family and local community. In some respects, it was easier when rules were more restrictive but at least definite!

We ask you to recall the exhortation in Ephesians 4 to *“be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”*

Going Forward

As we go forward, our heart is to give everyone choice whilst encouraging us all to show care and love to everyone in the Life Church Bath family and our community. As such we will:

Online

- Continue to Live Stream the meeting allowing people choice to attend in person or to connect online as they feel comfortable

Hygiene

- Continue to request that people who have any signs or symptoms of coronavirus do not attend The Forum
- Continue to request that everyone who has been asked to self-isolate does not attend The Forum
- Continue to ask people to wash hands with soap and water (or use hand sanitiser) on arrival at The Forum
- Continue to ask that everyone to follow the ‘Catch it, bin it, kill it’ approach to coughs and sneezes
- Encourage people to take a lateral flow test before coming into The Forum

Distancing between different households

- Continue to block off alternate rows to create some distance between households
- Encourage a minimum of 2 seats between households in a row, but allowing households to choose to have a larger gap, or to sit next to another household if they so wish
- Open the balcony to give greater seating choice, to create more space, and to allow us to create specific zones for those who wear face coverings and those who do not want to sing
- Encourage those who are comfortable with close contact to be aware that others may not be comfortable with this

Face Coverings

- Give people the choice of wearing face coverings or not, asking everyone to particularly respect one another’s differing stands on this

Singing

- Permit singing, with or without a face covering, in specified blocks of seating

Shared Use of Items

- Continue to use individual communion pots handed out rather than a communal goblet
- Continue to not pass the offering buckets around
- Serve tea and coffee in the auditorium, and not allow self-service, at the end of the meeting
- Continue to send out a weekly e-shot with latest news and information and not hand out paper copies

The Forum Building

- Keep the fire exits stage left and stage right as a means of leaving the auditorium for those who do not want to walk back through the auditorium to the main entrance
- Create zones in the auditorium, both downstairs and in the balcony, for
 - Those who want to wear a face covering and sit with others wearing face coverings
 - Those who do not wish to sing or be near people who wish to sing

Please note that the creation of these zones does not stop those who wear a face covering sitting with those who do not wear a face covering, but is intended to create a space for those who only want to sit with other people wearing face coverings, and similarly for those who do not wish to sing

- Keep the Lower Foyer free from the serving of teas and coffees or furniture to keep the Foyers free from congestion and to facilitate the level of social distancing that individuals feel comfortable with
- Keep the Test & Trace QR code displayed for those who use it. However, we no longer expect people to sign in and will not be keeping a record of those who attend to send to NHS Test & Trace
- Continue to clean touch points, leaving doors open wherever possible
- Continue to keep the air filtration system on in the auditorium, Lower Foyer and use the portable air purifiers in other rooms that are being used
- Continue to close the main doors at 10.45am

Reviewing and communicating changes

- Review these guidelines weekly as new information and guidance emerges, and as we assess how these things are working for us in our building
- Continue to communicate to the church family by email, and to the church family and our guests by the website and verbal notices the measures we have put in place and changes that occur along the way.

Conclusion

As we move forward, taking responsibility for our own choices, we appeal to everyone to be kind to each other, to speak and act with love and consideration for others and to appreciate the pressure leaders and staff are under. Thank you.

What the Government is saying: Keeping yourself and others safe

As COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, it is important that we all use personal judgement to manage our own risk. All of us can play our part by exercising common sense and considering the risks. While no situation is risk free, there are steps everyone can take to reduce the risk of transmission:

Anyone with symptoms of COVID-19, even if they are mild, should not attend. They should self-isolate immediately and get a PCR test.

If someone has been instructed by NHS Test and Trace to self-isolate because they have tested positive for COVID-19, or they are the close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, they must self-isolate and not attend.

Social distancing and wearing a face covering are now a personal choice. People are encouraged to respect other attendees and those working who may wish to adopt a more

cautious approach. Government expects and recommends that people wear face coverings in crowded areas such as public transport.

The NHS COVID-19 app is a vital part of NHS Test and Trace in England and Wales. Using the app helps stop the spread of the virus by informing you that you have been in close contact with someone who has since tested positive for coronavirus, even if you don't know each other.

Several simple and effective personal hygiene behaviours can also continue to reduce the risk of catching or spreading COVID-19. These include:

1. washing your hands with soap and water or using hand sanitiser regularly throughout the day
2. avoiding touching your eyes, nose and mouth, and washing your hands before and after if you do need to touch your face (for example to put on or take off your face covering)
3. covering your mouth and nose with disposable tissues when you cough or sneeze, or sneezing into the crook of your elbow (not your hands) if you do not have a tissue

You may choose to limit the close contact you have with people you do not usually live with. You may also choose to take a free test before being in close contact to help manage periods of risk. These are personal choices which can help reduce your risk of catching or spreading COVID-19.

It is important to consider that others may wish to take a more cautious approach as we open up. We should all be considerate of this and provide the opportunity and space for others to reduce close contacts if they wish.

Testing

Around 1 in 3 people with COVID-19 do not have any symptoms. This means they could be spreading the virus without knowing it. Testing twice a week increases the chances of detecting COVID-19 when a person is infectious - helping to make sure you don't spread COVID-19.

Rapid lateral flow testing is available for free to anybody but is particularly focused on those who are not fully vaccinated, those in education, and those in higher-risk settings such as the NHS, social care and prisons. People may also wish to use regular rapid testing to help manage periods of risk such as returning to the workplace, close contact in a higher risk environment or when spending prolonged time with a more vulnerable individual. You can get tests from pharmacies or online.
