

COVID-19 Permitted Activities under the 3 Tier System

Issue Date	Version	Issued by
14 th October 2020	1.0	The House of Bishops Recovery Group

The Recovery Group has been set up to support the Church of England as government guidance changes through the COVID-19 pandemic. This document has been prepared with information available by the issue date. It will be kept under review and updated as the situation develops, with each update issued as a new version. The current version will always be available to download from the Church of England website via the [Coronavirus FAQs page](#).

The following information sets out how the 3 Tier System of alert levels introduced by the Government on the 14th October impacts on the main activities related to churches. Please use the Government's [post code checker](#) to find out which Tier applies to you and the [general description](#) of the different tiers.

Additional guidance on the activities listed is available on the Church of England's national coronavirus [webpage](#).

Activity	Tier 1 Medium	Tier 2 High	Tier 3 Very High
Gatherings in general – NB the general rules on gatherings are subject to exceptions, including the exceptions for activities in churches etc. set out below.	Gatherings limited to 6 people in Tier 1 area unless all involved are from the same household or 2 linked households.	No indoor gatherings within Tier 2 area of 2 or more people unless all involved are from the same household or 2 linked households. Person who lives within Tier 2 area must not participate in any indoor gathering outside Tier 2 area unless	No indoor gatherings within Tier 3 area of 2 or more people unless all involved are from the same household or 2 linked households. Person who lives within Tier 3 area must not participate in any indoor gathering outside Tier 3 area unless

		<p>all involved are from the same household or 2 linked households.</p> <p>No outdoor gatherings within Tier 2 area of more than 6 people unless all involved are from the same household or 2 linked households.</p> <p>Person who lives within Tier 2 area must not participate in any outdoor gathering outside Tier 2 area of more than 6 people unless all involved are from the same household or two linked households.</p>	<p>all involved are from the same household or 2 linked households.</p> <p>No outdoor gatherings within Tier 3 area of more than 2 people – except in certain public outdoor places, in which case up to 6 people may gather – unless all involved are from the same household or 2 linked households.</p> <p>Person who lives in Tier 3 area must not participate in any outdoor gathering outside Tier 3 area – except where gathering takes place in certain public places, in which case up to 6 people may gather – unless all involved are from the same household or 2 linked households.</p>
<p>Public worship in church or in other premises where church services are routinely held</p>	<p>Permitted as an organised gathering provided any person attending is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • alone or • part of a group of not more than 6 or • part of group all from the same household or from two linked households; 	<p>Permitted as an organised gathering provided any person attending is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • alone or • part of group all from the same household or from two linked households; <p>and must not join any other group or mingle with any person from another group.</p>	<p>Permitted as an organised gathering provided any person attending is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • alone or • part of group all from the same household or from two linked households; <p>and must not join any other group or mingle with any person from another group.</p>

	and must not join any other group or mingle with any person from another group.	<i>NB non-household groups of 6 are not permitted</i>	<i>NB non-household groups of 6 are not permitted</i>
Church service in a public outdoor place	<p>Permitted as an organised gathering provided the organiser carries out a statutory risk assessment and takes all reasonable measures to limit risk of transmission of coronavirus, as described in the guidance available.</p> <p>Any person attending must do so either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • alone or • as part of a group of not more than 6 or • as part of group all from the same household or from two linked households <p>and must not join any other group or mingle with any person from another group.</p>	<p>Permitted as an organised gathering provided the organiser carries out a statutory risk assessment and takes all reasonable measures to limit risk of transmission of coronavirus, as described in the guidance available.</p> <p>Any person attending must do so either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • alone or • as part of a group of not more than 6 or • as part of group all from the same household or from two linked households <p>and must not join any other group or mingle with any person from another group.</p>	<p>Permitted as an organised gathering provided the organiser carries out a statutory risk assessment and takes all reasonable measures to limit risk of transmission of coronavirus, as described in the guidance available.</p> <p>Any person attending must do so either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • alone or • as part of a group of not more than 6 or • as part of group all from the same household or from two linked households <p>and must not join any other group or mingle with any person from another group.</p>
Weddings in church	<p>Permitted provided the gathering consists of no more than 15 persons.</p> <p>The organiser must carry out a statutory risk assessment and take all reasonable measures to limit risk of transmission of coronavirus, as described in the guidance available.</p>	<p>Permitted provided the gathering consists of no more than 15 persons.</p> <p>The organiser must carry out a statutory risk assessment and take all reasonable measures to limit risk of transmission of coronavirus, as described in the guidance available.</p>	<p>Permitted provided the gathering consists of no more than 15 persons.</p> <p>The organiser must carry out a statutory risk assessment and take all reasonable measures to limit risk of transmission of coronavirus, as described in the guidance available.</p>

	<i>NB wedding reception limited to 15 people.</i>	<i>NB wedding reception limited to 15 people.</i>	<i>NB No wedding reception permitted.</i>
Funerals in church, churchyard, cemetery or crematorium	Permitted provided the gathering consists of no more than 30 persons. The organiser must carry out a statutory risk assessment and take all reasonable measures to limit risk of transmission of coronavirus, as described in the guidance available.	Permitted provided the gathering consists of no more than 30 persons. The organiser must carry out a statutory risk assessment and take all reasonable measures to limit risk of transmission of coronavirus, as described in the guidance available.	Permitted provided the gathering consists of no more than 30 persons. The organiser must carry out a statutory risk assessment and take all reasonable measures to limit risk of transmission of coronavirus, as described in the guidance available.

Baptism (whether during public worship or free-standing)	Same as for public worship in church or in other premises where church services are routinely held (see above).	Same as for public worship in church or in other premises where church services are routinely held (see above).	Same as for public worship in church or in other premises where church services are routinely held (see above).
Ordinations (whether during public worship or free standing)	Same as for public worship in church or in other premises where church services are routinely held (see above).	Same as for public worship in church or in other premises where church services are routinely held (see above).	Same as for public worship in church or in other premises where church services are routinely held (see above).

<p>Meetings (APCM etc.) in church or church hall</p>	<p>Same as for public worship in church or in other premises where church services are routinely held (see above).</p>	<p>Same as for public worship in church or in other premises where church services are routinely held (see above).</p>	<p>Same as for public worship in church or in other premises where church services are routinely held (see above).</p>
<p>Remembrance Sunday events (so far as not covered under the above exceptions for church services)</p>	<p>Permitted. Persons attending are limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • those attending as part of their work • those providing voluntary services for event • members of the armed forces • veterans of the armed forces, their representatives and carers • spectators who participate alone, or as part of a group of no more than 6, or as part of a group all from the same household or from two linked households; spectators must not join any other group or mingle with any person from another group. <p>The organiser must carry out a statutory risk assessment and take</p>	<p>Permitted. Persons attending are limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • those attending as part of their work • those providing voluntary services for event • members of the armed forces • veterans of the armed forces, their representatives and carers • spectators who participate alone, or as part of a group of no more than 6, or as part of a group all from the same household or from two linked households; spectators must not join any other group or mingle with any person from another group. <p>The organiser must carry out a statutory risk assessment and take</p>	<p>Permitted. Persons attending are limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • those attending as part of their work • those providing voluntary services for event • members of the armed forces • veterans of the armed forces, their representatives and carers • spectators who participate alone, or as part of a group of no more than 6, or as part of a group all from the same household or from two linked households; spectators must not join any other group or mingle with any person from another group. <p>The organiser must carry out a statutory risk assessment and take</p>

	all reasonable measures to limit risk of transmission of coronavirus, as described in the guidance available.	all reasonable measures to limit risk of transmission of coronavirus, as described in the guidance available.	all reasonable measures to limit risk of transmission of coronavirus, as described in the guidance available.
Ministering to the sick and dying	Unaffected as general rule permits indoor gatherings or up to 6.	Permitted on the basis that it constitutes work purposes of the provision of voluntary or charitable services.	Permitted on the basis that it constitutes work purposes of the provision of voluntary or charitable services.
Provision of support groups, which can include mother and toddler groups	Permitted provided the gathering consists of no more than 15 persons. The organiser must carry out a statutory risk assessment and take all reasonable measures to limit risk of transmission of coronavirus, as described in the guidance available.	Permitted provided the gathering consists of no more than 15 persons. The organiser must carry out a statutory risk assessment and take all reasonable measures to limit risk of transmission of coronavirus, as described in the guidance available.	Permitted provided the gathering consists of no more than 15 persons. The organiser must carry out a statutory risk assessment and take all reasonable measures to limit risk of transmission of coronavirus, as described in the guidance available.
Provision of youth services	Organised activities for children and young people are permitted.	Organised activities for children and young people are permitted.	Organised activities for children and young people are permitted.