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Guidance for Attending Services During the COVID-19 Pandemic

In order to assist with ensuring that Corringham Evangelical Church is 'COVID-Secure' you are asked to digest and abide by the following instructions when attending a service:

- You will be required to book attendance for yourself (and your family group, if required) as space is limited. While it will not be possible for all of the church congregation to attend each week, we would encourage you to book places for when you are able to attend bearing in mind the needs of others. In order to book, please send a message or call Dave Partridge on 07866 975498. Bookings must be made by 7.00pm on the day before the service at the latest.
- If you have any of the recognised symptoms of COVID-19 you must not attend the church building and must self-isolate. The symptoms are:
 - a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature);
 - a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual);
 - a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.
- Services will commence at 11.00am and you are requested to arrive no more than 15 minutes before the start and to leave within 15 minutes of the end of the service. It is important that you do not stay in the building for too long or have extended conversations as this goes against Government guidance.
- There will be a one-way system in operation. Entrance to the church building will be via the main front entrance only. Exit from the building will be via the door in the back hall. No other doors may be used except in the case of emergency. Please follow the arrows on the floor.
- You may be required to queue when entering the building – please ensure that you maintain an appropriate distance of 2 metres from those in front of you; floor markers will be present to assist with this.
- A member of the Oversight will greet you in a socially-distanced manner at the door and will provide you with any additional direction that you may require; please note that there will be no physical contact as part of this greeting;
- Toilets will be available but may only be accessed by following the one-way system through the building. You are requested to use facilities at home, where possible.
- You will be sprayed with hand sanitiser on entry and exit from the building.
- You must wear a face covering while in the building unless legally exempt (a list of the exemptions is provided at the end of this document). Face coverings must cover the nose and mouth and cannot be in the form of a visor, and must be put on before entry into the building and removed after exit from the building. You are requested to bring your own face covering but disposable face masks will be available for those who do not have their own. Please note that those leading services are exempt from wearing face coverings.
- You must sit with your household group only and must maintain a minimum of 1 metre 'social distance' from others.

Corringham Evangelical Church is a member of the UEC

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- As we begin the process of re-opening there will be no children's work although we hope to reintroduce this later in the Autumn; parents are asked to supervise their children, to keep them with their family group, and to ensure that they do not wander around the building;
- Contact/discussion with others should be minimised and therefore there will be no refreshments provided.
- Windows will be open to assist with ventilation and you are asked to consider this when choosing what outfit to wear while attending church.
- Due to restrictions, the service will be shorter in length than usual and will generally consist of a couple of songs projected by video, readings, prayers, a children's talk/video talk and a sermon; singing itself is not allowed at present.
- The service will be live-streamed on YouTube and will also be available in recorded form after the service. The sermon will also be available as a podcast, as usual.
- Where possible, you are asked to make donations by bank transfer. If this is not possible, a donation basket will be available but donations will be left in quarantine for a period of 72 hours following receipt.
- Song books, Bibles, pens and all unnecessary objects have been removed from the church to reduce the risk of infection. You are asked to bring your own Bible with you or make use of the projected Bible.
- Paper notice sheets will not be provided in order to reduce contact.

While attending church will clearly be very different during this period, the Oversight very much hope that re-opening the church building will allow members of the congregation to enjoy meeting together while also allowing those still at home to benefit from what is provided. We will, of course, continue to review Government guidelines and will make amendments to these instructions as required.

The following people are exempt from wearing a face covering:

- Children under the age of 11 (Public Health England do not recommended face coverings for children under the age of 3 for health and safety reasons);
- People who cannot put on, wear or remove a face covering because of a physical or mental illness or impairment, or disability;
- Where putting on, wearing or removing a face covering will cause you severe distress;
- If you are speaking to or providing assistance to someone who relies on lip reading, clear sound or facial expressions to communicate;
- To avoid harm or injury, or the risk of harm or injury, to yourself or others.