

On 8 Dec 2021 the UK Government confirmed the move to Plan B of their Covid-19 Roadmap due to the rapid spread of the Omicron variant. Wearing a face covering in enclosed and crowded spaces is now once again compulsory. The Government continues to recommend good ventilation and diligence in hygiene. It is also recommended that individuals limit contact with those they do not live with.

The Community Church Sheppey has taken all possible measures to limit the spread of Covid-19. We take seriously the responsibility to continue to protect members of the church and the community as a whole. Therefore, in view of recent developments in relation to the pandemic, the church Covid-19 leadership team met on 19 Dec 2021 and agreed the following:

- We highly recommend that those attending church use LFT's before Sunday services. The onus here is placed on individuals to act responsibly
- Hand sanitising points will remain in place in the church building.
- We will continue to clean the church between services, including touch point cleaning between activities (e.g. Sunday services and food bank)
- Everyone attending services and other activities on our site is required to abide by the mandate to wear face coverings, except where an exemption applies.
- The chairs in the church will be set out in a way to accommodate those who wish to sit together and anyone who wants to maintain a reasonable distance from others.
- Stewards will be on hand in services to explain seating arrangements to all attending.
- We will continue with NHS 'track and trace' for those who wish to use the QR app or give their name and contact details on arrival, following GDPR.
- All possible windows will be open before the service and remain open to facilitate good ventilation.
- We note that there are currently no government restrictions on singing in church. However, in line with the need to keep everyone safe, we will encourage low level singing and ask the congregation to continue wearing face coverings during songs and hymns.
- The side doors of the church will be opened for anyone who wishes to use a separate exit route.
- Screening and distancing of the music group and those taking part in praying, reading and preaching will remain in place.
- Church zoom will remain for those who do not wish to attend the church building.

- Limited refreshments, served in disposable cups, will be available after the services in the worship area where more space is available than in the church hall.
- Sunday school will remain online. Any children attending church will be asked to remain seated with their parents/carers throughout services.
- Special arrangements concerning communion will continue. These will include the use of individual cups and also pots for individual pieces of bread. Communion will be offered to the members of the church by a steward, who will be keeping good hygiene practices when preparing. They will wear a face covering and protective gloves when serving.
- All food bank control measures will remain in place and Care4Christmas and the weekly children's group have their own risk assessments.