

# CHANGES TO REGULATIONS FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP

For the latest comprehensive guidance, please follow this link: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): guidance for the safe use of places of worship - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship-2020-05-19/pages/1-1-introduction.aspx)

There are a number of changes affecting places of worship which are too many to record in one document and so the link above should be accessed for full information. The more significant points are listed below.

## Capacity

- Children, regardless of their age, who need their own seat are to be counted towards the maximum capacity of the Church.
- The maximum capacity of the Church and any halls used to increase the numbers attending Mass should be posted on signage outside the buildings.

## Test & Protect

- The Government is now describing the collection of contact information as voluntary for places of worship but is asking for co-operation in the practice to assist contact-tracing.
- The information collected should now be for each attendee, not just a lead contact.

## Music

- Congregational singing and playing of wind instruments are still not permitted.

## Other Uses

- Church Halls may now be used for a number of different activities. There is not one set of guidelines for the use of halls but the guidelines for each and every different activity must be followed.
- The general advice is that groups should continue to meet online where possible, but in limited circumstances, they can go ahead.
- Ensure you receive a comprehensive risk assessment from any group wanting to use the hall and ensure there is clarity about who is responsible for the cleaning after a group leaves the venue.

## Hospitality

- This is now permitted within places of worship but with several restrictions and the hospitality sector guidelines must be followed: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): tourism and hospitality sector guidance - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-the-tourism-and-hospitality-sectors-2020-05-19/pages/1-1-introduction.aspx).
- Places of worship are not eligible to reduce physical distancing to 1m.
- Capacity is restricted to 6 people from 3 households (from 17 May).
- Collection of contact details is mandatory.
- Only table service is permitted.
- Face coverings must be worn by all whilst entering, exiting or moving within the premises. They may be removed whilst seated and eating/drinking.
- Socialising between tables is not permitted.