



RCCG Central Office UK

Coronavirus (also known as COVID-19)

Updated with new Government Guidance on 25th March 2020

As the coronavirus (also known as COVID-19) continues to spread, we would like to explain how we are responding to this global health crisis. We pray that the spread would be contained and our thoughts and prayers are with the families of those already affected by the spread.

We would also like to remind you and your Parish, of the steps that we can all take to reduce the spread of COVID-19, while continuing our operations as normally as possible.

Symptoms

Common symptoms of COVID-19 include:

- Fever;
- Dry cough; and
- Shortness of breath.
- Note that symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure.

Exhibiting these symptoms does not necessarily mean that you have the coronavirus. Click this link for further guidance

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

If you develop symptoms or have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19, call your NHS line 111 or your GP.

Stay at Home

The single most important action we can all take, in fighting coronavirus, is to stay at home to protect the NHS and save lives.

When we reduce our day-to-day contact with other people, we will reduce the spread of the infection. That is why the Government has introduced three new measures:

1. Requiring people to stay at home, except for very limited purposes.
2. Closing non-essential shops and community spaces.
3. Stopping all gatherings of more than two people in public.

Every citizen must comply with these new measures. The relevant authorities, including the police, will be given the powers to enforce them – including through fines and dispersing gatherings.

These measures came into effect on Monday 23 March. The Government will look again at these measures after three weeks and relax them if the evidence shows this is possible.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/full-guidance-on-staying-at-home-and-away-from-others/full-guidance-on-staying-at-home-and-away-from-others>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-advice/>

Lockdown

See updated guidance at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/875304/240320_Revised_Guidance.pdf

Places of Worship are required to be closed except for:

- Funerals, where the congregation is immediate family (with provision for a carer, if required) or a friend - in the case that no family members are attending. A distance of two metres is to be maintained between every household group, as per Public Health England guidelines.
- A minister of religion, to go to their place of worship, including to broadcast an act of worship to people outside the place of worship, whether over the internet
- the purpose of hosting essential voluntary or public service, such as food banks, homeless services, and blood donation sessions.

Church services could still run via online platforms.

Residential homes are not to be used as a church venue instead of meeting in the usual public place.

Commuting

New rules are now in force:

Stay at home

- Only go outside for food, health reasons or work (where this absolutely cannot be done from home)
- Stay 2 metres (6ft) away from other people
- Wash your hands as soon as you get home

You can spread the virus even if you don't have symptoms.

[Staying at home and away from others \(social distancing\)](#)

Travel

International travel is becoming very limited as air routes close; land borders close and new restrictions are put in place that prevents flights from leaving. For up-to-date guidance, please

see <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus>

Reducing the Spread of Infection

Wash your hands often and thoroughly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.

Also, please ensure that you:

- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze;
- Throw all used tissues in the trash right away and wash your hands immediately after handling used tissues;
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth;
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick; and
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces, such as your keyboard or mouse, using a regular household cleaning spray or wipes.

Do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital.

You do not need to contact 111 to tell them you're staying at home.

Further Communications

This is a rapidly changing situation. We will continue to provide you with guidance and updates as to how COVID-19 affects our organisation.

In the meantime, please continue to look out for the government advice on <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public> and do not hesitate to contact our communications team should you require further guidance.

We pray that God will continue to protect and keep us all In Jesus Name.

Psalm 91:1-3.

Thank you, and God bless.

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