

Guidelines for returning to Public Services at Aberdeen Street Church.

Many of us are looking forward with great anticipation to resuming face-to-face worship and fellowship at Aberdeen Street. We also recognise that some people are apprehensive and will need more time before they feel comfortable to return. However, because of continuing restrictions, our gatherings will not be quite the same as before but will still provide the opportunity for you to engage in a corporate worship experience. To ensure that everyone is kept as safe as possible, please read the guidance below on what you can expect when you return to church, and what will be expected from you. The guidance is in three parts:

1. Before the Service
2. During the Service
3. After the Service

General NHS advice remains, that if you have a high temperature, a new, continuous cough, a loss of, or change to, your sense of smell or taste, you should not attend our services. Please also be ready to follow the advice of the Ushers and Ministers during services.

Before the Service

Pre-Registration

If you intend to join us at a service, it is important you let us know by pre-registering by email to aberdeenstreet@kogop.org.uk, texting the Office mobile on 07307 417039 or calling the office number 0121 551 3919. You will need to give your name, current telephone, and the number of family members who will be in attending with you. Please also let us know if you would need assistance in the event of an emergency. This will enable us to manage the capacity and log attendees. In addition, if you have any concerns about your eligibility to return to face to face worship, please use the COVID-19 website www.gov.uk/coronavirus19

Travelling to and from Church:

If you intend to share a vehicle you should do so with the same individuals and with the minimum number of people at any one time. Please keep the vehicle windows open and ensure that the vehicle is cleaned regularly, using antibacterial spray and wipes with emphasis on handles and other areas where passengers touch.

When you arrive:

- When you arrive please go to the single point of entry which is the entrance by the lift. This door will be used for entrance only, no exit.

- If others arrive at the same time, please make sure you begin to observe social distancing of 2 metres from outside and continue while inside the building.
- Please use the automatic hand sanitizer in the entrance lobby to sanitize your hands. The sanitizer is automatic, so there is no need to touch it. Simply place your hand under the dispenser to receive the spray.
- Once in the lobby you will be met by members of staff who will take your temperature using a thermometer which will be positioned close to your forehead for a few seconds. If your temperature is over 37.5°C you will be asked to return home and contact the NHS to arrange for a COVID test.

Confirmation of attendance:

- Once your temperature has been taken please go to the reception desk (when it is free) where a member of our team will check the pre-registration list to record your attendance and confirm your contact details.

Face Covering:

- Please come with your own face covering and wear it whilst inside the building. If you have a medical exemption, please inform the stewards on arrival.

Entering the Main Worship Area:

- Once your temperature has been taken and your registration and contact details confirmed, you will be escorted to a seat by a steward via a one-way system. This may not be your usual seat as we will need to manage the seating to ensure everyone's safety. Each available seat will be 2 metres apart, except where you are seated with members of your family who live with you in the same household.
- Children are welcome to the service, but they must remain seated with their parents or carers during the service. There will be no Children's Ministry at present. These will continue to take place on zoom.

During the Service

What will the service entail?

- The service will commence at 11.00am until 12.15pm. However, Stewards, Public Relations Team, IT Team and First Aiders are required to be there by 10.00am. Worshippers are expected to arrive before 11.00am for a prompt start.

It will include praise and worship led by a team of worship leaders and musicians. Worship Leaders will be positioned at least 6 metres from the nearest congregants and will have a shield as an added precaution. The service will also include individual and corporate prayers, testimonies, and the preaching of the Word. A large shield is placed in front of the podium. In keeping with government guidance, loud congregational singing, shouting, chanting etc, are discouraged.

- Given the present circumstances it is essential that we restrict movement to a minimum during the service. We would encourage attendees to make use of toilet facilities before leaving home or on arrival at church. Please also take a bottle of water with you. Once inside, if you need to exit the building, please use the front door at the Winson Green Road end and return via the lift entrance.

Giving

- Giving is an important part of our worship. If you wish to give an offering or tithe, online giving is preferred, by bank transfer or via our church app. If you do not have online facility and wish to give cash, please prepare your offering or tithe from home. You can get a supply of Gift Aid envelopes from the stewards. When you enter the main hall, you can place your envelope into a basket provided by a steward.

Toilet:

- Please take note of the number of people allowed in the toilets at any one time. Before entering, open the door and check how many people are already inside. Stewards will also direct people to alternative toilets if there is a queue.
- Remember to wash your hands thoroughly with soap and warm water. Anti-bacterial wipes are provided to enable users to wipe surfaces before or after using the facilities. Please dispose of used wipes and

paper towels in the bins. **Do not** flush them in the toilets as this will cause blockage.

Emergency Evacuation

- In the event of an emergency such as a fire, the alarm will sound, and instructions will be given by the person leading the service or duty Steward/Fire Marshall. Please follow their instructions and calmly leave the building via the nearest exit and go to the large car park at the back of the building.

After the Service

When the service has ended:

- At the end of the service please wait for the Stewards to direct you to the appropriate exit. In keeping with the one-way system, the exit will be through the front entrance or the patio via the overflow leading to the large car park. Please take all your personal items with you and sanitize your hands as you exit. To avoid creating a crowd after the service, please do not stop to socialize in the lobby area. Please continue to maintain a 2 metres distance even in the car park. **Do not** shake hands with anyone or be offended if someone refuses to shake your hands.

Refreshments

- Unfortunately, no refreshments will be served for the time being.
- Thank you for taking time to read through this guidance. We hope it will help make our time together a positive experience as we all take the necessary precautions to keep each other safe by minimising the risk of spreading the infection.
- Thank you for taking the time to read this document. We hope you can see that we are making every effort to make the building as safe as possible for all users. However, the rest is down to how we behave when we are together. So, to keep everyone safe please follow the social distancing rule, hand washing and other instructions.
- Finally, let us not be fearful, "For God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind" 2 Tim. 1:17. Let us pray and trust the Lord as we move forward together in faith.

Aberdeen Street Pastoral Team