

Anglican Church, Basel

Protocol for Church Attendance During COVID-19 Pandemic

Hygiene Practices for Individuals Attending Church

- Those with symptoms of COVID-19 or other respiratory or flu-like illness, or a raised temperature, or who are particularly vulnerable to infection should not attend public services, but join worship, as available, through online streaming or other media broadcast.
- For individuals attending church: carrying of tissues and using them to catch coughs and sneezes, and binning the tissue continues to be important. In addition to this, it is recommended that each individual or each family carry a small bottle of hand sanitizer.
- The use of face masks is highly recommended to reduce transfer of respiratory droplets into the environment.
- Disinfectants and hand washing/sanitizing facilities will be provided at the church entrance, along with a waste bin in which to drop tissues or hand wipes.
- The door will be open before and after the service and people should avoid touching it if possible. Door handles and hand railings will be disinfected on a regular basis. The Church will be well ventilated prior to and during the service.
- The BAG [Swiss Health Ministry] notices in English will be clearly visible at the entrance to the church building.
- A person responsible for enforcing the rules will be identified for each service.

Booking/Ticketing Systems

- A system for booking or ticketing for services will take place.
- If the church is filled to the permitted capacity, no further entry will be allowed.

Arrival at Church

- Everyone should wash their hands with an alcohol-based sanitizer. There should be no handshaking or other physical touch.
- On arrival at church people must remain minimum 1.5 metres* apart at all times, unless part of a family group.
- Attendance on arrival at the service should be noted in a loose-leaf folder, with a personal, not shared, pen or pencil. This measure is needed only to facilitate any contact tracing. After 14 days the list of names and addresses will be destroyed.

Seating in Church in Accordance With Physical Distancing Requirements

- **Seating arrangements in churches will ensure that there is a minimum 1.5 -metre distance*** between persons in all directions during a service, whether this is standing or sitting. The seating areas will be marked in a way to aid ‘distancing’.
- Families and individuals who live in the same household can sit together if they are living together.
- The Church balcony will not be used, in accordance with the Diocesan guidelines.

Music: Singing & Instruments

- An organist/pianist or other musician or a small group of musicians safely distanced will be able to play in church. Wind instruments will not be played.
- Congregational singing hymn singing is allowed (if not too boisterous and singers are not directly facing anyone).*
- A cantor or small choir (3 to 5 people) could sing, keeping greater distance from each other and the congregation.

General Liturgical Instructions and Guidance

- Prior to the start of the service a notice will be given about the protective measures.
- Liturgy and hymns (to follow words being sung) will be shown either on a screen or printed and made available to be picked up rather than distributed by hand.
- Readers, preachers, leaders of intercessions etc., should take care not to touch lecterns, pulpits or microphones.
- The use of hand held microphones will not be allowed.
- Instead of shaking hands with neighbours at the peace, a sign of reconciliation will be conveyed in a different form, such as, bringing together the palms of one’s hands and bowing to the other with a smile, as in the Indian Namaste greeting. This greeting will continue at a distance.

Holy Communion

- When Holy Communion is allowed it will be distributed in the form of bread/wafer only. Both elements will be consecrated, but the wine will not be distributed. (It is a clear principle of Anglican theology that the sacrament of Holy Communion is present and complete in either of the consecrated elements.)
- Only the presiding minister will handle the vessels and administer Holy Communion.
- There will be no offertory procession with the elements.
- The Priest presiding at the Eucharist will wash their hands with an alcohol-based sanitizer, just prior to commencing the liturgy of the Sacrament and again just prior to distributing Holy Communion.
- The bread to be consecrated for the whole assembly will remain covered during the eucharistic prayer.

- The words of distribution of the consecrated bread will be pronounced by the priest to the whole assembly corporately, so that the actual distribution of communion happens in silence.
- The priest will wear a face mask when distributing communion. At all times, the priest in administering the sacrament will avoid contact with the hands of the communicants.
- The bread/wafer will be distributed with communicants approaching in a single line standing with a 2 metre distance between them.

Offerings

- Offerings are to be placed in a container at the exit. A member of clergy will count the collection at the end of the service, watched by a service supervisor and will either wear clean gloves, or ensure they have hand-washed both before and after touching the collection.

End of Service

- There will be no refreshments after the service
- The congregation will leave the service in an orderly queue, leaving a minimum of 1.5 metres* metres between themselves and the next person (unless a family group). There will be no opportunity at the end for fellowship.

Children's and Youth Ministry

- Children's Ministry and Youth Ministry will adhere to the current Swiss guidelines for gatherings of children in schools and day care centres. A separate Protocol will be made available for this ministry.

Cleaning

- Before and after each service the church will be cleaned with disinfectant.
- Communion vessels and linen will be disinfected after each use.

08.06 2020

*Amended July according to communication from Archdeacon of 29.06.2020