



First Dunmurry
NS Presbyterian Church

Returning to Church Good Practice Guidelines

Commencement of church services:

- Church services will recommence from Sunday 13th September at 11.30am.
- Church services will be shorter than normal, lasting a maximum of 45 minutes.
- Due to localised lockdowns and an expected second wave over the Autumn months, Church services will take place on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month until further notice i.e 13th Sept, 27th Sept, 11th Oct, 25th Oct etc.

Signs and symptoms:

- If you are feeling unwell or are displaying any of the following symptoms: high temperature; persistent new cough; loss of taste or smell, then please DO NOT attend church services.
- All individuals experiencing symptoms are required to isolate for 10 days and book a test via www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test

Hand washing and sanitising:

- Hand sanitising stations will be available in Church and the McCleery Hall. Please use on entering either building.
- Toilets in the McCleery Hall will be open and handwashing facilities are available.

Contact tracing:

- All members and visitors to church services will be required to note their name and contact details to support Public Health Agency Contact Tracing programme.
- All data will be securely stored in line with GDPR guidelines and this information will not be shared with anyone except the relevant health authorities (if required).
- If you have a smartphone, we encourage you to download the free health service StopCOVIDNI app. Using the StopCOVIDNI app along with the existing public health measures will help us all to stay safe, as it tells you automatically if you've been near someone who tests positive.

Social distancing:

- Please respect social distancing and remain 2 metres/6 feet away from others at all times.
- Various pews within our church have been closed to facilitate social distancing. Pews that are closed are marked with a pew closed card and we kindly ask you to choose somewhere else to sit during the service. Please make use of pews in both galleries.
- Do not share pews with members of other households, unless they are part of your existing 'bubble'.
- A one-way system is in place to facilitate social distancing. One door will be open to enter the building and the second will be opened to allow people to leave from. Please observe the one-way system while in the church building.
- Exiting the church will start with those nearest the exit on the ground floor, followed by galleries. If anyone has mobility issues they could wait in their pew until the church is empty before exiting.



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- Congregation members are encouraged to limit their time at church before and after each service. Please chat outside the church building at a distance to avoid clogging up the aisles.

Face coverings:

- Guidance states that face coverings are required in various indoor venues. Currently this does not include churches. We encourage members and visitors to wear masks as evidence shows that it can protect others.
- Please note while wearing a face covering; social distancing and regular hand washing/sanitising is still advised.

During the service:

- Doors will be open during church services to allow for ventilation.
- The visiting minister will remain in the pulpit for the duration of the service. Guidelines indicate that there should be at least 4m between the pulpit and the congregation. Pews have been closed to facilitate this.
- Unfortunately, there will be no singing of hymns to prevent potential aerosol spread of the virus. Our Organist will play music as the congregation enter and leave the church, with a compilation of music during the service. The resumption of singing will be under constant review and any change will be in line with current advice.
- There will be a retiring collection for free will offering, with a basket available as you leave the church building.

Sunday School:

- Sunday School will not take place until further notice; however, children are more than welcome to join church services.
- A children's song and/or address will take place, but children will remain in their pews with their parents/guardians.

Cleaning:

- Sanitising of surfaces will only be necessary in the event of the church being used twice within a 72-hour period, in line with the European Centre for Disease Control (ECDC) guidance that the virus only stays active on hard surfaces for up to 72 hours.
- Cleaning practices will be in place via our existing cleaning rota.

Online services:

- Online services will continue for those who cannot or do not yet feel comfortable attending services in person. Services will be uploaded weekly to our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/NSPCIDunmurry/>