



Memo

To: All User Groups

From: [REDACTED]

CC: [REDACTED]

Clarification of face coverings at Walkden Methodist Church

Further to the issue of our guidance we would wish to clarify the use of face coverings within our building. The church is required to comply with Places of Worship and Community Centre settings in the government guidance.

Extract below from the guidance:

In England, you must wear a face covering in the following indoor settings....

- *places of worship*
- *community centres, youth centres and social clubs*

These are the main two categories our building falls under with additional requirements depending on the activity. Within the building at Walkden Methodist Church face coverings are compulsory as per the guidance. In accordance with the government guidance there are exemptions from face coverings as defined below:

- children under the age of 11 (Public Health England do not recommend face coverings for children under the age of 3 for health and safety reasons)
- people who cannot put on wear or remove a face covering because of a physical or mental illness or impairment, or disability or other medical reason
- employees of indoor settings (or people acting on their behalf, such as someone leading part of a prayer service) or [transport workers](#) - although employers may consider their use where appropriate and where other mitigations are not in place, in line with COVID-19 Secure guidelines
- police officers and other emergency workers, given that this may interfere with their ability to serve the public
- where putting on, wearing or removing a face covering will cause you severe distress
- if you are speaking to or providing assistance to someone who relies on lip reading, clear sound or facial expressions to communicate
- to avoid harm or injury, or the risk of harm or injury, to yourself or others

In addition to the national guidance the Local Council has been issuing further guidance to prevent the spread of the virus locally as we have seen an increase in recent weeks. See below posters for information.

Local restrictions: Salford



You cannot socialise with another household in your home or garden. Household support bubbles are exempt.



Try not to share a vehicle with anyone you don't live with, unless they are part of your support bubble.



Places of worship and other settings with strict COVID secure arrangements remain open.



You can only sit indoors in pubs, bars and restaurants with members of your own household or support bubble.



Up to two households (or six people from a number of households) may meet outdoors (not in private gardens). Remember to keep 2 metres apart.



Wherever possible, stay 2 metres apart from people you do not live with (unless they are in your support bubble)

Salford City Council www.salford.gov.uk/coronavirus

Coronavirus is spreading in Salford

Protect your family and community



Wear a face covering



Wash your hands often



Stay apart from anyone you don't live with



Get tested if you are unwell. Call **119** or go to www.nhs.uk
For advice, go to www.salford.gov.uk or call **0800 952 1000**

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We trust the above clarifies the matter, however if you wish to discuss please do not hesitate to contact us.