

Liberal Jewish Synagogue

Risk assessment for Covid-19 Virus

Area assessed	Ground floor to enable communal worship at services (low attendance - maximum 30 congregants) and for live streaming					
Undertaken by	Trevor Haynes					
Date	11 January 2021					
Review date	February 2021					
What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	Mitigating actions	What further action is necessary?	Action by whom?	Action by when?	Done
Spread of virus to vulnerable people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All users through contact and close proximity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The following should not be permitted access to the synagogue: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> anyone who (in the previous 14 days) shows any symptoms of Covid-19 or who lives with people who do or who has been in contact with a confirmed case anyone who has been advised by NHS Test and Trace that they may have been exposed to Covid-19 anyone who has been asked to self-isolate anyone who has been quarantined having travelled recently 				
Spread of virus among congregants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All users through contact and close proximity Rabbis and congregants through socialising 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Booking system to provide timed admissions and to record who attends each service together with contact details for effective track and trace No more than 30 people permitted within the synagogue in addition to essential personnel Separate desk to be provided in foyer for check-in Eliminate transmission across reception and check-in desks Coat storage area to be taken out of use for congregants Introduce one-way system to ensure no clashes between people entering and leaving Rabbis should move directly from robing into the sanctuary once all congregants are seated All congregants must wear face covering at all times All congregants to use sanitizer when entering and leaving All users to exercise social distancing rules Users should remain 2m apart from each other when leaving or queuing to enter the building; crowding should be avoided 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Congregants to agree that details be kept (GDPR). Records to be kept for 3 weeks only Provide sneeze screens for reception and check-in desks Provide sanitizer at check-in desk Provide screens where clash is unavoidable Consider placing strips across floor in foyer and on outside ramp Individual groups of more than one household or support bubble must not exceed 6 people Ensure congregants are shown to seating as quickly as possible If communal siddurim continue in use, these must be kept separate from those not used and quarantined for 48 hours after each use People must wear face coverings at indoor places where social distancing may be difficult or they will come into contact with people they do not normally meet 			

Spread of virus among congregants (<i>Cont'd</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All users through contact and close proximity (<i>Cont'd</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Congregants must not mingle indoors with anyone with whom they (a) do not live; or (b) have formed a support bubble Kiddush following services will not be possible Use of mobile phones not permitted inside the synagogue and used outside only in isolation from other users All refuse to be placed in bins for normal disposal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People living in a lower tier area should be discouraged from attending services People living in a higher tier area must continue to follow their tier rules if attending services 			
Spread of virus within sanctuary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All users through use of pews All users through contact and close proximity Rabbis and congregants through socialising Rabbis and congregants through contact with ark doors Rabbis and congregants through contact with Torah scrolls and reading desks All users through use of service sheets or shared items (kipot, tallitot, etc) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce one-way system through sanctuary to ensure no clashes between people entering and leaving Open windows to ventilate sanctuary Users should remain 2m apart from each other when leaving or queueing to enter the sanctuary Congregants must not mingle indoors with anyone with whom they (a) do not live; or (b) have formed a support bubble Rabbis should move directly from robing into the sanctuary once all congregants are seated All congregants must wear face covering (not required for service leaders but they must be at least 2 metres from congregants) Congregants must occupy only the places assigned to them No service sheets or other shared items to be used but see col.4 if communal siddurim continue in use Encourage congregants to bring own siddurim Because of the potential for increased risk of transmission from aerosol and droplets even when wearing face coverings, congregants must avoid singing, shouting and raising voices. Pews and reading desks to be thoroughly cleaned before and after each service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use signs to designate one-way system and seats not to be used Ensure two empty seats between individuals or family groups Leave a vacant row of seats between occupied rows Congregants to remain in their assigned seats Consider using upper bimah only to avoid risk of transmission from aerosol and droplets Consider using sneeze screens for rabbis Consider using portable ark with one Torah scroll only during current crisis Torah scroll to be handled by as few people as possible using disposable gloves which must be removed and safely discarded after use If communal siddurim continue in use, these must be kept separate from those not used and quarantined for 48 hours after each use 			
Spread of virus through contact with surfaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All users through contact with door handles, door plates and other hard surfaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All door handles, door plates, light switches, handrails, storage cupboards and other hard surfaces to be cleaned and sanitized after each service and at the end of each day Rooms not required to be kept locked shut to avoid contamination Access to 1st floor to be avoided 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish cleaning schedule to cover all areas to be cleaned and sign off on completion of each cleaning session Display cleaning schedule within toilets to provide reassurance 			
Spread of virus in kitchen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All users through contact with any kitchen equipment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kitchen to be kept locked shut except for caretakers and for cleaning 				

Spread of virus through performance of music	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All users through the increased spread of saliva droplets through singing or playing of instruments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where essential to acts of worship, a choir of limited number staying 2m apart may be permitted to chant or sing The group of singers must be at least 2 metres from anybody else A wind instrument may be played but: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> it must not be pointed towards anyone it must not be played within 2 metres of anyone it must be thoroughly cleaned before and after any performance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preferable to use sound recordings instead of live performers Instruments may be played for faith practices, as well as for general maintenance, but they should be cleaned thoroughly before and after use Because of the potential for increased risk of transmission from aerosol and droplets even when wearing face coverings, congregants must avoid singing, shouting and raising voices. 			
Spread of virus through toilet use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All users through use of hand-driers All users by access to refuse bins All users through touching toilet cubicle doors, toilet roll holders and toilet flush controls 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signs displayed to limit numbers using toilets Posters displayed to encourage regular handwashing using soap and paper towels Provide hand sanitizer in toilets Take hand-driers out of use Provide extra paper towels (but no towel dispensers) Provide large bins without lids Bins to be emptied each day Sanitise all surfaces each day Toilet seats and lids to be cleaned each day Toilet paper dispensers to be cleaned each day Full PPE to be used when cleaning and safely discarded after use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Display cleaning schedule and keep up to date Ensure adequate supplies of consumables 			
Risk of Legionella build-up in water systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All users as Legionella bacteria can build up in water systems that are unused when premises are left unoccupied 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flush through hot and cold water systems each week by running hot and cold taps for at least 5 minutes 				

Updates from previous issue:

	Item	Date
1	Mitigating actions changed for "spread of virus through performance of music" in light of latest government guidance	11 January 2021
2	Distance between service leader/singers/wind instrumentalists and congregants reduced to at least 2 metres (a change was made in government guidance sometime before January 2021 but not picked up)	11 January 2021
3		
4		