



Hi Church,

I hope this email finds you well.

I'm writing to briefly let you know what we are already doing, and what we might do in the future, in relation to the rapidly changing guidance on Covid-19 (Coronavirus). You've received this email because you are in the Freedom Church Database (even though your communication preference might be set to "only if completely necessary").

Please be reassured that we are taking this situation seriously and continue to seek advice in relation to how we respond. We must carefully respond with faith and common sense, neither being cavalier or overreacting. We are currently being guided by Public Health England (PHE), the Government and the Evangelical Alliance (EA).

Firstly, here are some changes we are going to be making with immediate effect and for the foreseeable future:

- We would ask that anyone who has been told they need to stay away from public places (self-isolate) by the 111 online coronavirus service or a medical professional, should not come to Church.
- Any communion planned will be organised to avoid any sharing of cups or bread.
- Only individually wrapped snacks will be available before and after Church.
- Big Team Leaders will ensure that all team members wash their hands thoroughly before commencing any refreshment preparation.
- Church attenders will be actively asked to ensure good hygiene in relation to sneezing, blowing their noses and hand washing.
- At the Freedom Centre handrails and door handles will be regularly sanitised including before and after any community use or activity, e.g. Foodbank Drop-In sessions.
- Pastoral Visits for anyone who is "self-isolating" will be postponed or similar care and support will be provided remotely.
- We will continue to liaise with the Romsey School to ensure that there is sufficiently well stocked soap in hand dispensers in the school toilets.
- We will stop having inflatable toys available during worship.

Whilst we are not yet at the stage of asking people to avoid any physical contact (hugs, handshakes, laying hands etc), or to not attend church services if you have a cold/flu like symptoms, we would like to ask you to be mindful of these things, and to consider reducing unnecessary close personal contact or exposure to unwell adults in order to protect the more vulnerable members of our community.

We have further plans, contingencies and mitigating actions we are ready to take if/when guided to by the authorities.

Secondly, here's two things you can do:

1. PHE say "what's most important at the moment is that people practice good hand and respiratory hygiene and wash their hands frequently and thoroughly".
2. Follow Government advice in relation to travel from specified countries. If you have recently travelled from specific countries you may need to self-isolate; more information can be found [here](#).

Let's continue to do everything we can to be a Christian Witness in a time of fear. Let's pray for decision makers, medical professionals, those isolated and those fearful of the future. Let's pray for miracles. Let's be a voice of calm and reason in our communities in the name of Jesus Christ.

Finally, if you want more information then the following links may be helpful:

Hampshire County Council Update Page:

[www.hants.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.hants.gov.uk/coronavirus)

Evangelical Alliance Update Page:

<https://www.eauk.org/resources/what-we-offer/churches-and-the-coronavirus>

Public Health England Advice:

<https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2020/01/23/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-what-you-need-to-know/>

If you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch with myself or a member of the Leadership Team.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

God Bless.

Tim Parker

Freedom Church Leadership Team