

COVID-19 Permitted Activities under the 3 Tier System

Issue Date	Version	Issued by
8 th December 2020	2.1	The House of Bishops Recovery Group
Updates on version 2: An additional section has been added to explain about homegroups or other meetings in private dwellings under the 3 tier system.		

The Recovery Group has been set up to support the Church of England as government guidance changes through the COVID-19 pandemic. This document has been prepared with information available by the issue date. It will be kept under review and updated as the situation develops, with each update issued as a new version. The current version will always be available to download from the Church of England website via the [Coronavirus FAQs page](#).

The following information sets out how the 3 Tier System of alert levels re-introduced by the Government on the 2nd December impacts on the main activities related to churches. Please use the Government's [post code checker](#) to find out which Tier applies to you and the [general description](#) of the different tiers.

Additional guidance on the activities listed is available on the Church of England's national coronavirus [webpage](#).

Activity	Tier 1 Medium	Tier 2 High	Tier 3 Very High
<p>Gatherings in general – NB the general rules on gatherings are subject to exceptions, including the exceptions for activities in churches etc. set out below.</p>	<p>Gatherings limited to 6 people in Tier 1 area unless all involved are from the same household or 2 linked households.</p>	<p>No indoor gatherings within Tier 2 area of 2 or more people unless all involved are from the same household or 2 linked households.</p> <p>Person who lives within Tier 2 area must not participate in any indoor gathering outside Tier 2 area unless all involved are from the same household or 2 linked households.</p> <p>No outdoor gatherings within Tier 2 area of more than 6 people unless all involved are from the same household or 2 linked households.</p> <p>Person who lives within Tier 2 area must not participate in any outdoor gathering outside Tier 2 area of more than 6 people unless all involved are from the same household or two linked households.</p>	<p>No indoor gatherings within Tier 3 area of 2 or more people unless all involved are from the same household or 2 linked households.</p> <p>Person who lives within Tier 3 area must not participate in any indoor gathering outside Tier 3 area unless all involved are from the same household or 2 linked households.</p> <p>No outdoor gatherings within Tier 3 area of more than 2 people – except in certain public outdoor places, in which case up to 6 people may gather – unless all involved are from the same household or 2 linked households.</p> <p>Person who lives in Tier 3 area must not participate in any outdoor gathering outside Tier 3 area – except where gathering takes place in certain public places, in which case up to 6 people may gather – unless all involved are from the same household or 2 linked households.</p>

Activity	Tier 1 Medium	Tier 2 High	Tier 3 Very High
<p>Public worship in church, churchyard or other premises where church services are routinely held and Carol singing in churchyard or other outdoor church premises</p>	<p>Permitted as an organised gathering provided any person attending is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • alone or • part of a group of not more than 6 or • part of group all from the same household or from two linked households or • part of group all from the same linked Christmas households (23 – 27 December only) <p>and must not join any other group or mingle with any person from another group.</p>	<p>Permitted as an organised gathering provided any person attending is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • alone or • part of group all from the same household or from two linked households or • part of group all from the same linked Christmas households (23 – 27 December only) <p>and must not join any other group or mingle with any person from another group. <i>NB non-household groups of 6 are not permitted</i></p>	<p>Permitted as an organised gathering provided any person attending is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • alone or • part of group all from the same household or from two linked households or • part of group all from the same linked Christmas households (23 – 27 December only) <p>and must not join any other group or mingle with any person from another group. <i>NB non-household groups of 6 are not permitted</i></p>
<p>Church service in a public outdoor place that is not a churchyard or other outdoor church premises and Carol singing in a public outdoor place that is not a churchyard or other outdoor church premises</p>	<p>Permitted as an organised gathering provided the organiser carries out a statutory risk assessment and takes all reasonable measures to limit risk of transmission of coronavirus, as described in the guidance available. Any person attending must do so either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • alone or • as part of a group of not more than 6 or 	<p>Permitted as an organised gathering provided the organiser carries out a statutory risk assessment and takes all reasonable measures to limit risk of transmission of coronavirus, as described in the guidance available. Any person attending must do so either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • alone or • as part of a group of not more than 6 or 	<p>Permitted as an organised gathering provided the organiser carries out a statutory risk assessment and takes all reasonable measures to limit risk of transmission of coronavirus, as described in the guidance available. Any person attending must do so either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • alone or • as part of a group of not more than 6 or

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> as part of group all from the same household or from two linked households or part of group all from the same linked Christmas households (23 – 27 December only) and must not join any other group or mingle with any person from another group.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> as part of group all from the same household or from two linked households or part of group all from the same linked Christmas households (23 – 27 December only) and must not join any other group or mingle with any person from another group.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> as part of group all from the same household or from two linked households part of group all from the same linked Christmas households (23 – 27 December only) and must not join any other group or mingle with any person from another group.
Travel to church	Permitted. But people are advised not to travel into an area if it is in tier 3.	Permitted. But people are advised not to travel into an area if it is in tier 3.	Permitted. But people are advised not to travel out of an area if it is in tier 3.
Weddings in church	Permitted provided the gathering consists of no more than 15 persons. The organiser must carry out a statutory risk assessment and take all reasonable measures to limit risk of transmission of coronavirus, as described in the guidance available.	Permitted provided the gathering consists of no more than 15 persons. The organiser must carry out a statutory risk assessment and take all reasonable measures to limit risk of transmission of coronavirus, as described in the guidance available.	Permitted provided the gathering consists of no more than 15 persons. The organiser must carry out a statutory risk assessment and take all reasonable measures to limit risk of transmission of coronavirus, as described in the guidance available. <i>NB No wedding reception permitted.</i>

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	<i>NB wedding reception limited to 15 people.</i>	<i>NB wedding reception limited to 15 people.</i>	
Funerals in church, churchyard, cemetery or crematorium	Permitted provided the gathering consists of no more than 30 persons. The organiser must carry out a statutory risk assessment and take all reasonable measures to limit risk of transmission of coronavirus, as described in the guidance available.	Permitted provided the gathering consists of no more than 30 persons. The organiser must carry out a statutory risk assessment and take all reasonable measures to limit risk of transmission of coronavirus, as described in the guidance available.	Permitted provided the gathering consists of no more than 30 persons. The organiser must carry out a statutory risk assessment and take all reasonable measures to limit risk of transmission of coronavirus, as described in the guidance available.
Baptism (whether during public worship or free-standing)	Same as for public worship in church or in other premises where church services are routinely held (see above).	Same as for public worship in church or in other premises where church services are routinely held (see above).	Same as for public worship in church or in other premises where church services are routinely held (see above).
Ordinations (whether during public worship or free standing)	Same as for public worship in church or in other premises where church services are routinely held (see above).	Same as for public worship in church or in other premises where church services are routinely held (see above).	Same as for public worship in church or in other premises where church services are routinely held (see above).

Activity	Tier 1 Medium	Tier 2 High	Tier 3 Very High
Meetings (PCC, APCM etc.) in church or church hall	Same as for public worship in church or in other premises where church services are routinely held (see above).	Same as for public worship in church or in other premises where church services are routinely held (see above).	Same as for public worship in church or in other premises where church services are routinely held (see above).
Homegroups or other meetings taking place in private homes (including Vicarages)	Gatherings limited to 6 people in Tier 1 area unless all involved are from the same household or 2 linked households.	<p>No indoor gatherings within Tier 2 area of 2 or more people unless all involved are from the same household or 2 linked households.</p> <p>Person who lives within Tier 2 area must not participate in any indoor gathering outside Tier 2 area unless all involved are from the same household or 2 linked households.</p>	<p>No indoor gatherings within Tier 3 area of 2 or more people unless all involved are from the same household or 2 linked households.</p> <p>Person who lives within Tier 3 area must not participate in any indoor gathering outside Tier 3 area unless all involved are from the same household or 2 linked households.</p>
Ministering to the sick and dying	Unaffected as general rule permits indoor gatherings of up to 6.	Permitted on the basis that it constitutes work purposes or the provision of voluntary or charitable services.	Permitted on the basis that it constitutes work purposes or the provision of voluntary or charitable services.

Activity	Tier 1 Medium	Tier 2 High	Tier 3 Very High
Provision of support groups on church premises, which can include mother and toddler groups	Permitted provided the gathering consists of no more than 15 persons (not including children under 5) and it is reasonably necessary for members of the group to be physically present.	Permitted provided the gathering consists of no more than 15 persons (not including children under 5) and it is reasonably necessary for members of the group to be physically present.	Permitted provided the gathering consists of no more than 15 persons (not including children under 5) and it is reasonably necessary for members of the group to be physically present.
Provision of youth services	Supervised activities for children and young people are permitted.	Supervised activities for children and young people are permitted.	Supervised activities for children and young people are permitted.
Non-worship performances and tourism in churches	Permitted provided any person attending is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • alone or • part of a group of not more than 6 or • part of group all from the same household or from two linked households or • part of group all from the same linked Christmas households (23 – 27 December only) and must not join any other group or mingle with any person from another group.	Permitted provided any person attending is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • alone or • part of group all from the same household or from two linked households or • part of group all from the same linked Christmas households (23 – 27 December only) and must not join any other group or mingle with any person from another group.	Permitted provided any person attending is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • alone or • part of group all from the same household or from two linked households or • part of group all from the same linked Christmas households (23 – 27 December only) and must not join any other group or mingle with any person from another group. To check if there are any additional restrictions please see here .