



FALKLAND ISLANDS GOVERNMENT

Socially Connected: Physically Protected

**Practical considerations and recommendations for faith-based communities
– 14 May 2020**

Amended 24 June 2020 to reflect an easing on the restriction on singing.

The Falkland Islands Government on 1 May, 2020, announced it was appropriate to ease some restrictions put in place in late March in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic.

These changes, which were effective 11 May, include allowing greater social interaction. Recognising the importance of faith to well-being, faith based communities can now begin to consider ways in which they can safely recommence formal gatherings supporting the well-being of their communities.

The following are some basic recommendations to support good public health hygiene.

Recommendations:

- Providing handwashing/sanitisation facilities at the entrance to buildings
- Opening churches and places of worship for private prayer and contemplation
- Restarting spoken services with social distancing of two metres between different households within the building
- Considering the restarting of Communion type services – in which case the officiating priest should sanitise their hands before administering Communion, and consider wearing a surgical mask
- Singing in buildings is considered safe providing there is adequate social distancing between household bubbles within the building. (amended 24 June 2020)
- Avoiding the use of intinction – so either using single element Communion or the Communal (or individual) cup with good hygiene between Communicants as usual
- Avoiding large social gatherings such as shared refreshments after service

These recommendations are for guidance and may change as the situation develops.

Useful Contacts

For medical enquires KEMH Telephone 28000

For latest updates and guidance visit www.fig.gov.fk/covid-19

If you still require advice after consulting the website, please contact Falkland Islands Public Health by emailing Carol Morrison (cmorrison@sec.gov.fk) with your enquiry