

Notices on Government's Rules to Close Shops and Stay Home

In order to reduce the spread of the infection, the government has introduced the following 3 rules (on 23rd March 2020) to reduce our day-to-day contact with other people. This is the church's understanding of the rules. These rules apply to **EVERYONE**:

1. People MUST stay at home, except for very limited purposes

In addition, the rules if you have symptoms still apply – so if you have symptoms you must not go out at all for the relevant periods of time (see previous guidance on Staying at Home)

2. Closing non-essential shops and community spaces

If you run a take-away shop you can still open (see below) but you must observe the procedures

3. No more than TWO people can be together in public unless you live in the same flat or house together

4. These measures are in place now and the police may issue you a fine of up to £960 if you break the new regulations. (If you are caught breaking these rules for the first time, the fine is £60; if you are caught breaking the rules for the second time, the fine will be doubled, with the maximum being £960), We do not know yet when these rules will be changed.

You should spend as little time as possible outdoors and MUST leave the house only for one of four reasons:

- shopping for basic necessities
 - Try to limit your shopping trips to once a week or less, and use online shopping and food delivery services if you can
- doing one exercise a day on your own or with someone you live with
 - You can leave your house or flat for a walk, or run, or cycle. You can go to the park but you must not use any play or fitness equipment in the park

- seeking or providing medical needs; providing care or helping a vulnerable person
 - You can go to the chemists/pharmacy to get medicines to your GP if you have an appointment or to the hospital if necessary;
- travelling to and from work if it is absolutely necessary

You must avoid meeting anyone during this period, including your friends and family members who do not live with you. If they ask you to meet, you should say no. Do not gather in public, since public gatherings of more than two people who do not live together are prohibited. You should ensure you are 2 meters apart from anyone who does not live with you.

For takeaway owners and customers, please make sure all the staff and customers keep a 2-meter distance from each other.

Non-essential businesses and premises must now shut

The following businesses and premises must remain closed:

Business, premises or place	Exceptions
Food and drink	
Restaurants	Food delivery and takeaway can remain operational.
Cafes, including workplace canteens	Food delivery and takeaway can remain operational. Cafés or canteens at hospitals, care homes or schools; prison and military canteens; services providing food or drink to the homeless.
Public houses	
Bars and nightclubs, including bars in hotels or members' clubs	
Retail	
Hair, beauty and nail salons, including piercing and tattoo parlours	
Massage parlours	
All retail with notable exceptions	Supermarkets and other food shops, health shops, pharmacies including non-dispensing pharmacies, petrol stations, bicycle shops, home and hardware shops, laundrettes and dry cleaners, bicycle shops, garages, car rentals, pet shops, corner shops, newsagents, post offices, and banks.

Outdoor and indoor markets	Market stalls which offer essential retail, such as grocery and food.
Auction houses	
Car showrooms	
Hotels	
Hotels, hostels, BnBs, campsites and boarding houses for commercial use	Where people live in these as interim abodes whilst their primary residence is unavailable they may continue to do so. Key workers can continue to stay in hotels or similar where required.
Caravan parks/sites for commercial uses	Where people live permanently in caravan parks or are staying in caravan parks as interim abodes where their primary residence is not available, they may continue to do so.
Non-residential institutions	
Libraries	
Community centres, youth centres and similar	Facilities may remain open for the purpose of hosting essential voluntary or public services, such as food banks or homeless services. We will do everything to support vulnerable people who are without a network of friends and families.
Places of worship for services	Funerals following the social distancing guidance; places of worship should remain open for solitary prayer. Live streaming of a service without audience would be permissible.
Cinemas, theatres and concert halls	Live streaming of a performance by a small group could be permissible with social distancing observed.
Assembly and leisure	
Museums and galleries	
Bingo halls, casinos and betting shops	
Spas	
Skating rinks	
Fitness studios, gyms, swimming pools or other indoor leisure centres	
Arcades, bowling alleys, soft play centres and similar	
Outdoor recreation	
Enclosed spaces in parks, including playgrounds, sports courts and pitches, and outdoor gyms or similar	

For full guidance, please visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/further-businesses-and-premises-to-close>