Advice for faith institutions and groups on responding to Covid-19

### **On 16th March 2020, the Health Secretary Matt Hancock MP confirmed faith groups, place of worship should follow advice against mass gathering** of people over the coronavirus pandemic. [(Click here to watch the video)](https://youtu.be/liUdnF9-NHE)

This is a compilation of information shared with the Faiths Forum for London and Strengthening faith institutions from various organisations.

Many organisations within the faith sector are responding to the Coronavirus pandemic by following Public Health England’s advice aimed at delaying the spread of Covid-19 across the UK.

Public Health England Advice

Public Health England have developed specific guidance for:

* [New guidance for households with possible COVID-19 infection](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-guidance-for-households-with-possible-covid-19-infection) - updated 17th March 2020
* [Guidance on social distancing for everyone in the UK and protecting older people and vulnerable adults](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people) - updated 16th March 2020
* [Households with possible coronavirus infection](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance) - updated 16th March 2020
* [Employers](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19) - updated 10th March 2020
* [Educational Settings](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19) - updated 16th March 2020

# [Residential care, supported living and home care guidance](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-residential-care-supported-living-and-home-care-guidance) - published 13th March 2020

**The advice for anyone in any setting is to follow these main guidelines.**

1. The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of a new continuous cough and/or high temperature. If you have these symptoms, however mild, stay at home and do not leave your house for 7 days from when your symptoms started. You do not need to call NHS 111 to go into self-isolation. If your symptoms worsen during home isolation or are no better after 7 days, contact [NHS 111 online](https://111.nhs.uk/). If you have no internet access, you should call NHS 111. For a medical emergency dial 999.
2. Wash your hands more often than usual, for 20 seconds using soap and hot water, particularly after coughing, sneezing and blowing your nose, or after being in public areas where other people are doing so. Use hand sanitiser if that’s all you have access to.
3. To reduce the spread of germs when you cough or sneeze, cover your mouth and nose with a tissue, or your sleeve (not your hands) if you don’t have a tissue, and throw the tissue away immediately. Then wash your hands or use a hand sanitising gel.
4. Clean and disinfect regularly touched objects and surfaces using your regular cleaning products to reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people.

At the current time and based on our understanding of what is known of COVID-19 and other similar respiratory viruses, it is likely that older people and those with chronic medical conditions may be vulnerable to severe disease. As more information emerges, recommendations may change.

**Guidance from faith organisations**

* [British Board of Scholars and Imams and Scholars & the Mosques and Imams National Advisory Board](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1y5gVksANy3FHkklhDwBffjF62yWR8GAy/view?usp=sharing) - Briefing paper for Imams, Mosques, and Madrasas for the coronavirus Pandemic
* [Catholic Bishops’ Conference – advice and guidance](https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/our-work/health-social-care/coronavirus-guidelines/)
* [Church of England – guidance for churches](https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches)
* [City Sikhs - Coronavirus (COVID-19) update for the Sikh community](http://www.citysikhs.org.uk/coronavirus-and-the-sikh-community/)
* [Jewish Care](https://www.jewishcare.org/coronavirus) has put together communication on Coronavirus and a General [FAQ](https://www.jewishcare.org/assets/000/004/367/Coronavirus_General_FAQs_original.pdf?1584107271) on the Coronavirus, this could be useful or adapted for other community organisations working with at risk groups or for places or gatherings where keeping an accurate record of those who have come into contact with one another may be important.
* [Muslim Council of Britain – advice for mosques/madrasas and pilgrims](https://mcb.org.uk/mcb-updates/coronavirus-guidance-for-mosques-and-madrassas/)
* NYC Health [coronavirus factsheet in Yiddish](https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/imm/coronavirus-factsheet-yi.pdf)and [coronavirus safety tips in Yiddish](https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/imm/covid19-guidance-safety-tips-yi.pdf) (some location specific information will be less useful)
* Doctors of the World (DOTW) have devised [Coronavirus (Covid 19) advice for patients in 20 languages](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/193qQN9l04Dvf0N9L5zeWTiXK_DRbrAxg), which were produced in partnership with the Red Cross, Migrant Help and Clear Voice.

**Remote working and support for staff who are self-isolating**

* [27 tools and apps (many free or low cost) that assist with remote working](https://skillcrush.com/blog/remote-work-tools/)
* SAGE [guide to remote working and virtual teams](https://www.sage.com/en-gb/blog/remote-working-virtual-teams/)
* ACAS [advice for employers and employees](https://www.acas.org.uk/coronavirus)
* CIPD have put together resources on understanding how to [support your organisation and workforce through a global health emergency](https://www.cipd.co.uk/knowledge/fundamentals/emp-law/health-safety/coronavirus-factsheet)
* Resources for Online Meetings, Classes, and Events by Facilitators for Pandemic Response group and other collaborators have put [together a guide for remote working](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1NyrEU7n6IUl5rgGiflx_dK8CrdoB2bwyyl9XG-H7iw8/mobilebasic?userstoinvite=estelle@weyl.org#heading=h.jb9co2l7jt1p)

**Personal wellbeing**

* A [guide to Coronavirus and your wellbeing](https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/coronavirus-and-your-wellbeing/) - Mind

**Advice for Charities and Fundraising**

* [NCVO have collated a very broad range of advice](https://www.ncvo.org.uk/practical-support/information/coronavirus) and links, including on protecting staff and volunteers, developing a contingency plan, and advice from charities that support people with health conditions that could place them at greater risk of developing more serious symptoms (including [Diabetes UK](https://www.diabetes.org.uk/about_us/news/coronavirus), [Asthma UK](https://www.asthma.org.uk/advice/triggers/coronavirus-covid-19/) and [The British Heart Foundation](https://www.bhf.org.uk/informationsupport/heart-matters-magazine/news/coronavirus-and-your-health)).
* [SCVO](https://scvo.org/coronavirus-covid-19-information-guidance/) have developed a similar page for those based in Scotland.
* Charity Digital have prepared suggestions for charities’ [communications related to coronavirus](https://charitydigital.org.uk/topics/coronavirus-comms-for-charities-7135?utm_source=Charity%20Digital%20Trust&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=11387477_CHNW_20_1_EMAL_1G&utm_content=Coronavirus%20comms%20for%20charities&dm_i=O,6S2MT,PHYGL,R4E7E,1).
* [Posters and digital content](https://campaignresources.phe.gov.uk/resources/campaigns/101-coronavirus-/resources) is available to download from Public Health England.
* The [Fundraising Regulator has issued advice for fundraising events](https://www.fundraisingregulator.org.uk/more-from-us/news/covid-19-fundraising-events-advice).

The Institute of Fundraising also has advice for charities and regularly update [this page](https://www.institute-of-fundraising.org.uk/news/information-for-fundraisers-about-coronavirus/).

Many charities and places of worship have taken the difficult decision to cancel events now ahead of a possible change in guidance where public gatherings may become limited. Charities have to try to take decisions within a timeframe when the cost of cancelling can be minimised.

The advice from the Fundraising Regulator has important information on if and how refunds for tickets can be handled as well as suggestions for steps that should be taken at any events going ahead.

In addition to standard hygiene guidance and the guidance for all situations above, having an accurate record of attendees and their contact information is important to assist with locating those who may come into contact with an infected person should that occur at an event.

As in-person fundraising may become more challenging over the coming weeks and months, these resources on online crowd funding and digital fundraising may support charities considering finding or expanding alternative ways to raise funds for their work:

* Charity Digital’s guide to the [best online fundraising platforms for charities](https://charitydigital.org.uk/topics/topics/the-best-online-fundraising-platforms-for-charities-5324/)
* [The Good Exchange](https://thegoodexchange.com/) – “Digital technology that brings multiple grants, donations and fundraising activities together and instantly matches the grant makers and donors that have money to give, with the charities and community groups that need money is where it starts.”
* [Give as you live](https://www.giveasyoulive.com/) – platform that raises funds through online searching and online shopping
* [Amazon Smile](https://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/help/customer/display.html?nodeId=202035970) – “a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices and shopping features as [Amazon.co.uk](http://amazon.co.uk/). The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, Amazon will donate 0.5% of the net purchase price (excluding VAT, returns and shipping fees) from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases”
* A [group of London funders and foundations have issued this joint letter.](https://londonfunders.org.uk/about/covid-19) Even if you don’t receive funding from those featured, there are approaches and assurances here you could seek from your major funders.
* Bates Wells have prepared some [summary information on various legal implications for organisations](https://charitiesfmgroup.org/business-continuity-management-charities)
* The Charities Facilities Management Group have information on [Business Continuity Management](https://charitiesfmgroup.org/business-continuity-management-charities)
* Charity Commission Guidance on [Risk Management](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/charities-and-risk-management-cc26/charities-and-risk-management-cc26)
* A [beginners guide to online events](https://www.vidyard.com/blog/online-events/?fbclid=IwAR30prIwkiHFjPIcY2Efz9fhIhQL-rthT6cD-Ku1D90OZg9UWWbyqS1zuus)