



EFCC

exalting Christ in growing
healthy churches

GUIDANCE FOR EFCC CHURCHES AS THEY PREPARE TO CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER

One of the biggest disappointments for most Christians during lockdown was the inability to share fellowship at The Lord's Table. As we begin worshipping together, it is anticipated that all our churches will make a priority of redressing this disappointment.

EFCC and Government guidance require risk assessments to be conducted before churches re-open for public worship, and the process of risk assessment is now familiar. The purpose, therefore, of this guidance is to encourage churches to celebrate The Lord's Supper as soon as they feel able and to make a few suggestions, which we hope you will find helpful.

The template used for the re-opening of the church for worship is an ideal document on which to record your thinking for communion. As always, your risk assessment must be specific to your church because only you know: your congregation, your volunteers/servants and your buildings.

The Six Ps of Risk Assessment for The Lord's Supper

- ❖ **Premises**
Provided that you are celebrating communion in the same area used for Sunday worship, you will have already considered all the routine issues. However, should you be using a different space to that used for Sunday worship, you will have to go through the full risk assessment looking at managing arrival, hand sanitising, masks, social distancing, track and trace, singing, conversations, responses, managing exit, hand sanitising, not lingering.
- ❖ **Preparation**
Those responsible for preparing the elements in a sanitised location should have appropriate PPE and should wash their hands before and after.
- ❖ **Presentation**
Where are the elements kept once they are prepared? Are they on display? What risk does this add?
- ❖ **Provision**
How are the elements given to the worshipper?
- ❖ **Protection**
How are you protected in clearing away the elements after the service? (don't like the words residue and disposal in connection with the Lord's Supper)
- ❖ **Prayer**
Consideration should also be given to any time of open prayer and how that will be managed.

In discussions with churches, there are a host of options and these will depend largely on the different practices that already exist in our churches. As always, your usual EFCC contacts are available to help you think through these issues, should you need a little support.

Most recent EFCC advice document

<https://s3-eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/efcc-wp/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Advice-to-churches-for-re-opening.pdf>

Government Guidance

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship-during-the-pandemic-from-4-july/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship-during-the-pandemic-from-4-july> Look for the Food and Drink section