

Steve Horton

From: EFCC Trust Board <steve.horton@efcc.org.uk>
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EFCC

exalting Christ in growing
healthy churches

The Evangelical Fellowship of Congregational Churches is a group of over 100 evangelical churches in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland.



CORONAVIRUS UPDATE 05 August 2020

This e-mail is primarily for those churches where EFCC acts as the all-purpose

trustee. However, we circulate it to all our churches for information and as a way of sharing best practice.



To mask or not to mask, the question has been answered well, almost!

English government guidance is expected on Friday and, as soon as we are able to access it, we will get it to you. But please feel free to watch out for it yourself!

One major concern already expressed is that the guidance will require preachers to wear face coverings. We think that will not be the case. The current legal situation (as of 24 July) states that amongst those who are exempted from wearing a face covering are:

- a person responsible for a relevant place or an employee of that person acting in the course of their employment
- any other person providing services in the relevant place under arrangements made with the person responsible for a relevant place

That would seem to cover preachers, as well as people leading, reading or praying from the front and stewards.

Once official guidance is published, there will be the need for all churches to

add that to their risk assessments (where EFCC is an all-purpose Trustee, we will assume that has been done). So your risk assessment will have to be reviewed to cover those things in place to deal with voice projection of an unmasked preacher.

What won't change, however, is the legally enforceable requirement for all worshippers (other than those who are exempt) to wear face covering in church on Sunday.

We are here to help - if you are in any doubt about any aspect of re-opening, including risk assessment, contact **Tom Brand**, **Matt Rees**, or **Steve Horton** who will do their very best to help.



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EFCC · PO Box 34 · Beverley · Hull, HU17 0YY · United Kingdom

