

A brief update on behalf of the Advisory Group, following the announcement by the First Minister on Tuesday this week. Very little has changed at this point except as noted below: –

- In previous emails we have commented on the various changes to regulation in relation to facemask exemptions. In December, the "distancing" requirement for the face covering exemption for service leaders or choirs/worship bands was increased from 1 m to 2 m where no screen or partition was in place. With effect from today, the regulations have changed reducing that 2m requirement back to 1m. This change has been reflected in a minor alteration to the Government's Places of Worship guidance: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-places-of-worship/>
- A minor change has also been made to guidance in relation to organised activities for children. Government guidance has previously indicated that adults attending organised activities for children should wear face coverings when indoors, unless they are leading the activity. From Friday this week, face coverings will no longer be required for any adult taking part in organised activities when they are directly interacting with children under the age of 5.

Updated FAQs have been posted to the provincial website to reflect the change to the distancing requirement referred to above: <https://www.scotland.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/Frequently-Asked-Questions-Version-13-28.1.22.pdf>

We appreciate that continuing restrictions are a cause of frustration for some, particularly when the regime south of the border is less strict. Although relatively minor, it is to be hoped that the above relaxations go a little way to enable a resumption of more usual activity – particularly for church choirs and worship bands. We continue to engage regularly with Government and represent issues and concerns raised with the Advisory Group.

Kind regards

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