**Parish of St Paul’s Wilford Hill West Bridgford**

**Risk Assessment**

**Activity: COVID risk assessment for Pastoral Visiting. Date of risk assessment: 15th January 2022**

**Location: Various**

**Name of person with Responsibility: Tim Fox (Vicar) Date to be reviewed: TBA**

**This Risk Assessment assesses the risks arising from Pastoral Visits in private residences. This document recognises the natural wish to offer support and comfort to those in need but stresses the importance of limiting personal contact between the minister offering pastoral support and the individual being visited.**

**Planning for the Visit:**

1. **Communion Set is to be prepared, with sufficient wafer breads in pyx, but no extra. No wine is needed as per Church of England Guidance to only offer communion in one kind.**
2. **Individual requesting visit (for themselves or on behalf of someone else) to be informed of contents of this Risk Assessment, and particularly of measures needed to mitigate risk.**

| **What are the hazards?** | **Who might be harmed and how?** | **Controls required** | **Do you need to do anything else to manage this risk?** | **Action by whom?** | **Action by when?** | **Done** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | As above | **Lateral Flow Testing (Self Testing)**  It is considered to be best practice for the minister (and any others who might accompany) to take a Covid-19 Rapid Self-Test (Lateral Flow Test - LFT) on the morning of the visit. If this test in positive, the visit should be cancelled, and Govt Guidance followed relating to a positive LFT result. If the result is negative, other mitigations (below) should still be used. | No | Minister | Before Visit | N/A |
| Spread of COVID 19 | All present in house during Pastoral Visit, and Minister. Those whom they subsequently contact. | **Numbers attending**  Whilst it is recognised that for safeguarding reasons, the minimum number of people present during the visit will ideally be 3, further people present in the residence will be asked to remain in a different room (if possible) during the visit. | The Cooperation of the individual requesting the visit should be sought before the visit takes place. They should be reminded of this control at the start of the visit. | Minister | Before Visit | N/A |
| As above | As above | **Social Distancing**  All present will always be asked to consider keep an appropriate distance, where possible. However, full 2m ‘social distancing’ is no longer a requirement, although it may be considered to be ‘best practice’ and adopted where possible. | The Cooperation of the individual requesting the visit should be sought before the visit takes place. They should be reminded of this control at the start of the visit. | Minister | Before Visit / as visit commences. |  |
| As above | As above | **Hand sanitation**  The Minister’s hands should be sanitised on entry and exit. Hand Sanitiser should be brought by the Minister to the residence being visited. | No | Minister | During Visit. |  |
| As above | As above | **Ventilation**  Good ventilation is a key mitigation. If at all possible, windows shall be opened in the room where visit takes place. | The Cooperation of the individual requesting the visit should be sought before the visit takes place. They should be reminded of this control at the start of the visit. | Minister | Before Visit / as visit commences. |  |
| As above | As above | **Face coverings**  Face coverings are no longer mandatory, and therefore may or may not be worn, at the discretion of the minister and the person(s) being visited. For pastoral reasons, it should be considered that the minister be prepared not to wear a face covering if the person being visited would prefer. | The Cooperation of the individual requesting the visit should be sought, ideally, before the visit takes place. However a conversation ‘at the door’ about whether face-coverings should be worn would be acceptable. | Minister | Before Visit / as visit commences. |  |
| As above | As above | **Worship material**  No further mitigations required if hands sanitised before / after use. |  |  |  |  |
| As above | As above | **Toileting**  No further mitigations required if hands sanitised before / after use. |  |  |  |  |
| As above | As above | **Holy Communion**  The correct number of breads to be placed (with sanitised hands) in a pyx before visit.  Communion to be offered by Simultaneous Administration of both bread and wine (wafer to be touched to surface of wine, allowing a small amount to infuse).  Communion set with patten to be used.  Patten and pyx to be washed thoroughly after use.  Home Communion Carrying Case to be sanitised after use. | No. | Minister | Before, during, and after visit. |  |