

## **LATEST COVID UPDATE FROM THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND**

**SEPTEMBER 15TH**

### **The Rule of Six – Implications for Worship**

The new restrictions that the government introduced from 14 September 2020 do not include attendance at places of worship for services.

This is confirmed in the guidance document published on 14 September 2020 that is available via this link: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Meeting with others safely \(social distancing\)](#)

The Government has also issued an updated version of its guidance for the safe use of places of worship during the pandemic in light of the new "rule of six regulations.

At the present time The Church of England are continuing to review their advice and guidance in light of the new regulations and as soon as this is published the diocesan website and advice will be updated accordingly.

### **Numerical Restrictions – Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals**

Numerical restrictions continue to be in place in relation to weddings, baptisms and funerals. Weddings, Funerals and Baptisms should have no more than 30 people in attendance. In Oldham Weddings, Funerals and Baptisms should have no more than 20 people in attendance. In Bolton Weddings, Funerals and Baptisms should have no more than 6 people in attendance.

### **Test and Trace (worship related)**

New regulations relating to Test and Trace will be introduced from 18 September 2020.

The Government have stated that places of worship should keep a record of Covid-19 Update Tuesday 15 September 2020 Covid-19 Messages, 15 September 2020 2 those who have attended to facilitate NHS Test and Trace.

Providing information for Test and Trace is voluntary. If somebody informs you that they do not want to provide their details to be shared for the purposes of NHS Test and Trace, they can choose to opt out.

The Church of England are expected to publish updated guidance in relation to Test and Trace in the coming days.