

## **Standard operating procedure (SOP) for Technical and Worship team members in St. Mark's Church in the context of Coronavirus.**

These procedures apply to all relevant persons involved in or with the technical and music worship teams when operating in those roles within the church building.

The purpose of these procedures is to enable everyone to minimize the risk of passing on the Covid-19 virus to each other, or anyone else who uses the church building.

The basis for these procedures

*A person can be infected with the virus, and be capable of passing it on, even if they have no obvious symptoms noticeable by themselves or anyone else.*

*Even if someone has had the virus, they may still carry it after feeling that they have recovered (only 2 or more clear tests for the virus would make it certain that they are no longer infectious), and we don't yet know how long they may remain safe from re-infection. Remember that C-19 is a virus similar to the cold virus, and we all know how quickly we can get another cold after recovering from a previous one.*

*The virus can last up to 3 days on a surface after someone infectious has touched it, and it is very possible to pick up an infection this way. It can also be transmitted on a surface that may have been coughed/sneezed over.*

*The easiest way for the virus to be passed person to person is through breathing/coughing/sneezing, which is why masks are often recommended.*

*It is considered to be reasonably safe if you are 2m away from an infected person when facing them, 1m away when back to back or side to side, when they cough or sneeze. The 2m rule is therefore used as a good guideline in all circumstances, and we could add shouting as being as unsafe as coughing or sneezing.*

*You cannot get the virus just through touching an infected surface, but we are likely to infect ourselves if we then touch our face (mouth, nose, eyes) without cleaning our hands first. This is why we have the regular hand-washing and hand-sanitising advice.*

### **General Guidance**

Bearing the above in mind, we all need to be aware of how we might pass on, or be infected by, the virus through our activities at church. So irrespective of these procedures, it is essential that we remain aware of routes of transmission and remember the following:

- avoid close contact with others – 2m where possible
- wear a mask if you are likely to regularly be closer than 2m to others
- when you have touched a surface that others have touched recently, use hand sanitiser asap
- be aware of touching any part of your face – if you have, then again sanitise hands asap
- where tech team and worship team members are in the same household or bubble, they are counted as one person
- the focus needs to be on personal cleanliness, since some of the equipment (especially the mixer control surface) cannot practically be disinfected,

## Specific Arrangements

1. Where possible, we will keep to a standard layout/setup so there is minimal need to handle equipment on the dais. The tech team will aim to have everything needed in place before the worship team set up, and the worship team will be expected to set up their own equipment. Each worship team member will be positioned min. 2m from each other, and avoid being any closer at any point.
2. The worship team will sit on the dais, either where they are leading from, or on chairs 2m apart (same household can be together) further back on the dais. (This is mainly to enable the maximum congregation size).
3. Vocalists will be allocated a specific wind muff for their microphone, which only they will use and handle, and they will be identifiable, stored safely and separated from each other.
4. Under current govt guidelines, only 1 vocalist is allowed in a “performance” in non-professional situations. The vocalist should always sing facing away from other band members.
5. Tech team and worship team personnel will sanitise hands before and after handling any shared equipment, eg. DI box, microphone stand, sockets on keyboard – ie anything which both tech team and worship personnel may be likely to touch. Hand sanitiser will be readily available at the sound desk and on the dais close to the worship team at all times
6. The same procedure as item 5 will apply to any equipment handled by more than one tech team person.
7. The streaming, projection and mixing personnel will be positioned 2m apart, and where this may not be possible, or closer interaction is required, masks should be worn.
8. If disposable gloves are worn, it makes no difference to any of the above requirements – gloves require the same sanitizing as hands.

## Band Rehearsals

Since it is unlikely that worship bands can rehearse in homes due to distancing requirements, they may be able to rehearse in church subject to approval for each occasion by Saju or Vicky Allen. In such a case, all the above guidelines must be followed, and all personal details with times and dates be logged with Vicky Allen in accordance with the relevant sections of the “Standard operating procedure (SOP) for general practice for entering and re-opening St. Mark’s Church in the context of coronavirus for volunteers, congregation and general public”

All persons entering the church for the rehearsal should minimise their movements around the church, and bring their own drinks etc. to reduce the need to enter the creche, kitchen and toilet areas.

Before leaving the church, it will be necessary to carry out the relevant “deep cleaning” routines specified in the SOP for cleaning church, including but not limited to:

Handles and all touch surfaces to be cleaned by anti-bacterial spray or wipes in main Church area, porch and toilets, toilet seats, taps, and sinks where those areas have been entered by anyone.