

As you will be aware, the First Minister announced to the Scottish Parliament this afternoon a number of new restrictions being introduced to combat the current rise in Covid cases in Scotland.

The Advisory Group will revise its guidance in the light of the First Minister's announcement and will hope to reissue that within the next couple of days. However, in the meantime, please note the following particular implications for church life arising from today's announcement:

- From tomorrow (Wednesday 23 September) people may not visit another household indoors. This clearly means that pastoral visits indoors, including Home Communions, must be suspended.
- It is permissible to meet with one other household in a group of up to 6 people outdoors (including private gardens). Children under the age of 12 are exempted from the limit of 6 people and 2 households.
- A maximum of 6 people from no more than 2 households can meet in indoor public spaces such as cafes, pubs and restaurants (children under 12 are again exempted).
- The Scottish Government is also advising against car sharing. This, for example, would preclude giving someone a lift to church.

Public worship and the opening of churches for individual prayer can continue to take place (subject to the maximum of 50 people).

The Scottish Government has indicated that the restrictions will be reviewed in three weeks.

Kind regards

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Scottish Episcopal Church