

From: Whyte, George
Sent: 29 October 2020
To: Whyte, George <gwhyte@churchofscotland.org.uk>
Subject: COVID Protection Levels from 2 November 2020

Dear Colleagues

As you will know after decisions taken in the Scottish Parliament all local authority areas have been placed into a covid-19 protection level. Have a look at the table below and ensure that you understand which level applies to your parish and church building.

Local Authority	Health Board Area	Covid Protection Level from 6am 2nd November 2020
Aberdeen	NHS Grampian	2
Aberdeenshire	NHS Grampian	2
Angus	NHS Tayside	2
Argyll and Bute	NHS Highland	2
Clackmannanshire	NHS Forth Valley	3
Dumfries and Galloway	NHS Dumfries and Galloway	2
Dundee	NHS Tayside	3
East Ayrshire	NHS Ayrshire and Arran	3
East Dunbartonshire	NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde	3
East Lothian	NHS Lothian	3
East Renfrewshire	NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde	3
Edinburgh	NHS Lothian	3
Falkirk	NHS Forth Valley	3
Fife	NHS Fife	2
Glasgow	NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde	3
Highland	NHS Highland	1
Inverclyde	NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde	3
Midlothian	NHS Lothian	3
Moray	NHS Grampian	1
Na h-Eileanan Siar	NHS Western Isles (Eileanan Sair)	1
North Ayrshire	NHS Ayrshire and Arran	3
North Lanarkshire	NHS Lanarkshire; NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde (part)	3
Orkney	NHS Orkney	1
Perth and Kinross	NHS Tayside	2
Renfrewshire	NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde	3
Scottish Borders	NHS Border	2
Shetland	NHS Shetland	1
South Ayrshire	NHS Ayrshire and Arran	3
South Lanarkshire	NHS Lanarkshire; NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde (part)	3
Stirling	NHS Forth Valley	3
West Dunbartonshire	NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde	3
West Lothian	NHS Lothian	3

I've also attached a pdf with a table for each protection level and how it affects churches. Have a look at the appropriate table to ensure that you and your Kirk Session comply with the particular level of restrictions applicable to your setting. The restrictions (and permissions) come into effect next Monday (2nd November) so it is very important that you make any alterations which are needed to the ways which we organise worship, use the church building and organise our common life. These levels are set out in law approved by the Scottish Parliament and, therefore, they **need** to be followed. Should you wish to read the full Scottish Government Covid-19 Strategic Framework it can be accessed [here](#).

The Covid group recognise that a small number of parishes will straddle two local authority areas. If this affects your situation you may have some rules in place for your church building and another set for parts of the parish. This may have implications for ministers and staff travelling to work. Whilst the First Minister has asked that those in level 3 areas should not leave their council area but there are exemptions in place for work, health care and support, and attending things like funerals and weddings.

Finally, now that levels have been confirmed we can issue final thoughts on Remembrance Sunday. It should be noted that unless your area is in level 0 or 1 outdoor live events are not permitted at this time. This would include an act of remembrance at a War Memorial outwith the grounds of a place of worship. If the memorial is in the church grounds the "Place of Worship" regulations apply – for example, the maximum of fifty attendees where space allows plus the other preparations to ensure people's safety. I recognise that this will disappoint many but there may be creative ways in which you can still lead your community in an Act of Remembrance using other methods of delivery.

In the near future we hope to be able to target emails to areas that change levels, but for now, please ensure that you are aware of the restrictions for your area.

In the meantime please keep abreast of the current version of the [Church of Scotland Guidance](#).

Should you need any support please contact your Presbytery Clerk in the first instance or emailing covid19guidance@churchofscotland.org.uk

Yours sincerely,

George



The Church of Scotland

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