

## What are the current rules?

A number of common measures are in place across the UK:

- Services should be carried out in the shortest possible time - to ensure safety and minimise infection spread
- Worshippers should wear face coverings and keep a 2m (6ft) distance from anyone not from their own household or support bubble
- People must not mingle with anyone not in their own household or support bubble, and should be "encouraged to move on promptly" afterwards
- If shoes are removed before a service, people should avoid touching other people's footwear
- Items such as prayer mats, service sheets, religious texts or hymn books should not be shared - worshippers should bring their own and then take them home
- If people can't bring their own books, places of worship can offer a selection for individuals to use, but these should be quarantined for 48 hours before and after use
- Those giving and receiving food and drink in a service must observe strict precautions
- Spoken responses from worshippers should be uttered softly, and there should be no communal singing or chanting indoors to reduce the risk of transmission

## What are the rules in England?

**In line with government guidance**, acts of communal worship have continued throughout the winter in churches, synagogues, mosques, gurdwaras, temples and meeting rooms.

The number allowed at any service is determined by a risk assessment on the building where it is held.

A single small group of singers is now allowed to perform but only where it's essential to an act of communal worship, and with social distancing maintained at all times.

Communal singing cannot take place indoors, but a congregation outdoors may join in, as long as they follow social distancing rules.

No more than 30 people are allowed to attend funerals.

Weddings and civil partnership ceremonies can now take place with six people attending. From 12 April (at the earliest), 15 people will be allowed to attend wedding ceremonies, and from 17 May (at the earliest), this number will rise to 30.

At that point, other "life cycle" ceremonies - such as baptisms or bar mitzvahs - will be allowed to take place with 30 attendees.