



SUMMARY RINGING GUIDANCE (England)

Version 1.03 published 17th June

Protection	Current guidance from CCCBR	Basis for guidance (this is period up to 19 th July)	Practicalities
Facemasks	Wear face coverings when ringing (in fact at all times in the church building)	Facemasks are required to be worn in Places of Worship by law ¹	There are limited exemptions including medical. You can also remove a facemask if you are “undertaking exercise or an activity and it would negatively impact your ability to do so.” So if you think your ringing is negatively impacted by wearing a facemask then you have an exemption.
Number of ringers	Six	Rule of Six indoors is a legal maximum	Six is still the maximum even if some are the same household, so not five unconnected, plus a household.
Service or practice ringing	No distinction		
Social distancing	2m when not ringing 1m when ringing	2m is still the UK Government’s social distancing guidance. It is not a legal restriction. 1m no longer appears in any government guidance and is a concession suggested by the CC and agreed with CofE Recovery Group to make ringing practical	It’s distance between ropes not between shoulders. However if ropes are closer together than 1m, just adjust the ringing time or other measures accordingly ²
Duration of ringing sessions	Limit to around 45mins	Guidance agreed with CofE Recovery Group as a starting point for getting ringing going. It is just a typical service ringing or practice period. It balances the risks of being in what are often small spaces	Better ventilation increases the amount of time ringers could spend together in the same space. ²
Hand sanitiser / sharing ropes	Use and allow to dry before touching a different rope or shared surface	Scientific evidence that transmission by touch is no longer considered a major risk. Sanitiser is an additional precaution.	This enables ringers to ring different bells at the same practice. Effective hand sanitisers have 70% alcohol. Wait until hands are dry.
Lateral Flow Tests	Take them if you are going to mix with unvaccinated ringers	UK Government recommends LFTs in order to protect unvaccinated people from those who may be asymptomatic.	Definitely if you are running youth practices. Not necessary for groups of fully vaccinated adults (i.e. two vaccinations).
Ventilation	Ringling rooms should be well ventilated with external airflow	In line with Government’s “Hands Space Face Fresh Air” guidance	Ideally you should feel a draught. Good ventilation enables longer periods of ringing.

Place of Worship Guidance <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship-during-the-pandemic-from-4-july>

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own>
- Risks are proportional to distance and to time spent in the same space together. There is no specific cut-off. 45 minutes a metre apart with adequate ventilation is a base position - judgement can be used if for instance ventilation is better (longer ringing), ropes are closer (shorter ringing), etc.