



SUMMARY RINGING GUIDANCE (England)

Version 2.6 updated 17th December 2021 for the introduction of 'Plan B' restrictions and clarification on mandatory face coverings

Protection	Current guidance from CCCBR	Basis for guidance	Practicalities
Face coverings	<p>Strongly recommended for ringing at all times unless a ringer is exempted.</p> <p>Exemptions from wearing face coverings generally can be found in the Government guidance linked at the bottom of this page.</p>	<p>Face coverings are mandatory in places of worship under Plan B however there is an exception in the case of "a person providing services in the [place of worship] under arrangements made with the person responsible for the [place of worship]", i.e. the incumbent, churchwardens, Dean and Chapter, etc. Bellringers are prima facie within this exception.</p> <p>The Omicron variant is so infectious and transmissible that face coverings are still strongly recommended for all ringing.</p>	<p>Face masks will remain mandatory for ground floor rings open to the church, when ringers pass through public parts of the church, or when the ringing room is a shared space with others (e.g. choir members).</p> <p>FFP3 masks offer the best protection both for the wearer and in preventing transmission, but they need to be fitted properly.</p>
Ventilation	<p>Ringling rooms should be well ventilated with external airflow where possible</p>	<p>It is well established that good ventilation decreases the risk of virus transmission. Any ventilation is better than nothing.</p>	<p>Ideally you should feel a draught. Good ventilation makes longer periods of ringing safer. For an unventilated space, vaccinated ringers in possession of LFTs and wearing face coverings could justify ringing for a limited amount of time.</p>
Number of ringers	<p>No legal limit but consider limiting numbers in poorly ventilated ringing chambers</p>	<p>Legal restrictions have been removed but government is still urging caution in minimising the number, proximity and duration of social contacts</p>	<p>Ringers are more likely to feel comfortable where ringing rooms are not too crowded and are well ventilated.</p>
Social distancing	<p>Not legally required</p>	<p>Legal restrictions have been removed</p>	
Duration of ringing sessions	<p>Ring for as long as the band is comfortable ringing for</p>	<p>Personal judgement is the basis for deciding how long to spend with others in an enclosed space</p>	<p>Ringers are likely to feel more comfortable in well ventilated spaces</p>
Hand sanitiser	<p>Still encouraged as it adds protection</p>	<p>Scientific evidence that transmission by touch is not the main cause of transmission (aerosol is a greater cause) but the risk has not gone away. Sanitiser is an additional precaution.</p>	<p>Remember that sanitiser needs to dry to be effective</p>
Lateral Flow Tests	<p>Strongly recommended for all ringers to use, especially if vulnerable people will be present (such as those in education).</p>	<p>A free tool, advised by the UK Government, which can be useful to reduce the risk of infection being unwittingly brought into the tower.</p>	<p>Strongly recommended especially if you are running youth practices – parents will expect it. Also useful for groups of fully vaccinated adults when background infection levels are high or as part of the solution for ringing in poorly-ventilated towers. Ideally take as late as possible before ringing.</p>

Place of Worship Guidance <https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2021-12/COVID%2019%20Guidance%20v2.3.pdf>

Overall Government Guidance <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-coronavirus-restrictions-what-you-can-and-cannot-do>