

# Wales Guidance: Alert Level 0 guidance from March 2022 onwards

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The Welsh Government announced that Wales would revert to Alert Level 0 from Friday 28 January 2022 onwards and this was updated from 28 February. Whilst this broadly means the lifting of many restrictions, there is still a need for bellringers to exercise caution in returning to bellringing activities.

Even at Alert Level Zero, there are three key legal requirements that **must** be observed, however only two are now relevant to ringing as Places of Worship have been removed from the list of settings requiring the wearing of face coverings:

1. Organisations must undertake a written coronavirus risk assessment of their premises and activities and take reasonable measures to minimise exposure to, and the spread of, coronavirus based on that risk assessment.
2. Everyone must still self-isolate for the required period if they test positive for COVID-19.

Key sources of guidance on preparing risk assessments is available as follows:

Welsh Government - <https://gov.wales/alert-level-0-guidance-employers-businesses-and-organisations-html>

Church in Wales - <https://www.churchinwales.org.uk/en/clergy-and-members/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance/>

There is also some very useful information from the Health and Safety Executive regarding ventilation available at <https://www.hse.gov.uk/coronavirus/equipment-and-machinery/air-conditioning-and-ventilation/index.htm> .

Risk assessments **must** be approved by PCCs or Ministry Area Councils.

The Scottish Association of Church Bell Ringers has a useful template risk assessment available at <https://www.sacr.org/images/documents/covid-19/Return%20to%20Ringing%20Risk%20Assessment.docx>

Risk Assessments should take into account the following:

- Ventilation: spaces with good ventilation are safer spaces. If a space cannot be ventilated with fresh air, then social distancing will be even more important.
- Social distancing: Whilst the requirement for social distancing is no longer a legal requirement, it remains a useful mitigation to reduce the risk of transmission.
- There are clearly much lower risks from fully vaccinated persons mixing than when unvaccinated people are mixing.
- Hand washing and sanitizing should continue.
- The cleaning of surfaces and premises remains important.

- Track and Trace – continuing to record who is present in a building enables effective tracing if there is a positive contact.
- It is important to remind people that Covid-19 has not been eradicated and people should still exercise caution in their behaviour.

Association and Branch events will also require a completed risk assessment to be agreed with the PCC/MAC of the host tower. Visiting groups of ringers should comply with the risk assessment in place at that particular host church.