

January 2021

Dear Faith Sector Partner,

We have heard from several faith sector partners in recent days expressing their concerns about hosting congregational worship in the light of the rising COVID-19 rates.

The view of Warwickshire County Council's Public Health team is that this is a very valid concern. Case rates in Warwickshire have continued to increase, as well as across the country. A driver of this rise is the emergence of a new variant of the SARS-CoV-2 virus which is significantly more transmissible than the previously dominant strain. We are already seeing rising admissions into critical hospital care as a result.

It's important to note that the Government's lockdown guidance does not prohibit congregational worship. However, we would support any faith sector organisation deciding to pause services at this time with the aim of reducing risk to your faith communities, especially those members who are older and more at risk of severe illness and death.

If you would like to discuss your individual setting with us then, as you know, we are always ready and willing to do so. Please contact the Public Health help desk email on dphadmin@warwickshire.gov.uk.

We would also encourage you to attend the **COVID Secure - Places of Worship - Information Webinar**

Webinar Details: Tuesday 19th January 4pm-5pm

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or call in (audio only)

[020 3321 5213](tel:02033215213)

Phone Conference ID: 145 053 358

*Working for
Warwickshire*

In the meantime, thank you again for your continued and outstanding leadership throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shade Agboola'.

Dr Shade Agboola MBBS, FFPH, PhD
Director of Public Health
Warwickshire County Council

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Warwickshire*