



SUMMARY RINGING GUIDANCE (England)

Version 2.5 updated 9th December 2021 for the introduction of 'Plan B' restrictions

Protection	Current guidance from CCCBR	Basis for guidance	Practicalities
Face coverings	Mandatory in a place of worship	Face coverings became mandatory in places of worship on 10 th December with no exceptions for bellringing. There are limited exemptions for people generally and specifically for places of worship, such as those taking the service and singing. These can be found in the Government guidance and the Church of England guidance linked at the bottom of this page.	FFP3 masks offer the best protection both for the wearer and in preventing transmission, but they need to be fitted properly.
Ventilation	Ringing rooms should be well ventilated with external airflow where possible	It is well established that good ventilation decreases the risk of virus transmission. Any ventilation is better than nothing.	Ideally you should feel a draught. Good ventilation makes longer periods of ringing safer.
Number of ringers	No legal limit but consider limiting numbers in poorly ventilated ringing chambers	Legal restrictions have been removed but government is still urging caution in minimising the number, proximity and duration of social contacts	Ringers are more likely to feel comfortable where ringing rooms are not too crowded and are well ventilated.
Social distancing	No longer legally required	Legal restrictions have been removed	
Duration of ringing sessions	Ring for as long as the band is comfortable ringing for	Personal judgement is the basis for deciding how long to spend with others in an enclosed space	Ringers are likely to feel more comfortable in well ventilated spaces
Hand sanitiser	Still encouraged as it adds protection	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.	Remember that sanitiser needs to dry to be effective
Lateral Flow Tests	Useful for all ringers to use, especially if vulnerable people will be present (such as those in education).	A free tool, advised by the UK Government, which can be useful to reduce the risk of infection being unwittingly brought into the tower.	Strongly recommended if you are running youth practices – parents will expect it. Not necessary for groups of fully vaccinated adults but could still be part of the solution for ringing in poorly-ventilated towers.

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>