

# **(COVID-19) Re-opening of Church for Individual Prayer Risk Assessment Control Measures guidance**



**Polish Catholic Church of Our Lady of Czestochowa**  
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This guidance was created to support a parish to be compliant with current legislation and government COVID-19 guidance. It was also created to support a risk assessment in process of implementation a safety control measures to mitigate a risk of COVID-19 infection during re-opening of Church for Individual Prayer

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## Definitions:

**Clinically extremely vulnerable people** may include:

- 1) Solid organ transplant recipients.
- 2) People with specific cancers:
  - people with cancer who are undergoing active chemotherapy
  - people with lung cancer who are undergoing radical radiotherapy
  - people with cancers of the blood or bone marrow such as leukaemia, lymphoma or myeloma who are at any stage of treatment
  - people having immunotherapy or other continuing antibody treatments for cancer
  - people having other targeted cancer treatments which can affect the immune system, such as protein kinase inhibitors or PARP inhibitors
  - people who have had bone marrow or stem cell transplants in the last 6 months, or who are still taking immunosuppression drugs
- 3) People with severe respiratory conditions including all cystic fibrosis, severe asthma and severe chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).
- 4) People with rare diseases that significantly increase the risk of infections (such as severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID), homozygous sickle cell).
- 5) People on immunosuppression therapies sufficient to significantly increase risk of infection.
- 6) Women who are pregnant with significant heart disease, congenital or acquired.

**Clinically vulnerable people** are those who are:

- aged 70 or older (regardless of medical conditions)
- under 70 with an underlying health condition listed below (that is, anyone instructed to get a flu jab each year on medical grounds):
  - chronic (long-term) mild to moderate respiratory diseases, such as asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), emphysema or bronchitis
  - chronic heart disease, such as heart failure
  - chronic kidney disease
  - chronic liver disease, such as hepatitis
  - chronic neurological conditions, such as Parkinson's disease, motor neurone disease, multiple sclerosis (MS), or cerebral palsy
  - diabetes
  - a weakened immune system as the result of certain conditions or medicines they are taking (such as steroid tablets)
  - being seriously overweight (a body mass index (BMI) of 40 or above)
  - pregnant women

**Steward** a person looking after place of worship and individual prayers during their pray

**Individual Prayer** a person or household entering a place of worship to pray

**Person responsible for cleaning** a person cleaning a place of worship before and after being open for individual prayers to pray. That person is also responsible for waste management after cleaning

## Risk Assessment:

A spread of COVID-19 Coronavirus foreseeable hazard was already assessed during the risk assessment process in line with the current health and safety legislation and government COVID – 19 guidance.

## Control Measures:

A required safety control measures were identified during the risk assessment process. The purpose of the control measures is to support to reduce a level of risk to as low as reasonably practicable.

### **Social distancing:**

- 1) All individual prayers (incl. children) and stewards must maintain social-distancing between individuals for all time when at the place of worship. They also should reduce movement to as minimum as needed during the time at the place of worship.
- 2) To allow the individual prayers to maintain social-distancing wherever possible the below safety control measures should be implemented:

- a) Appropriate signage/stickers “wait here” should be installed to allow to keep a social distance of at least 2m between entering

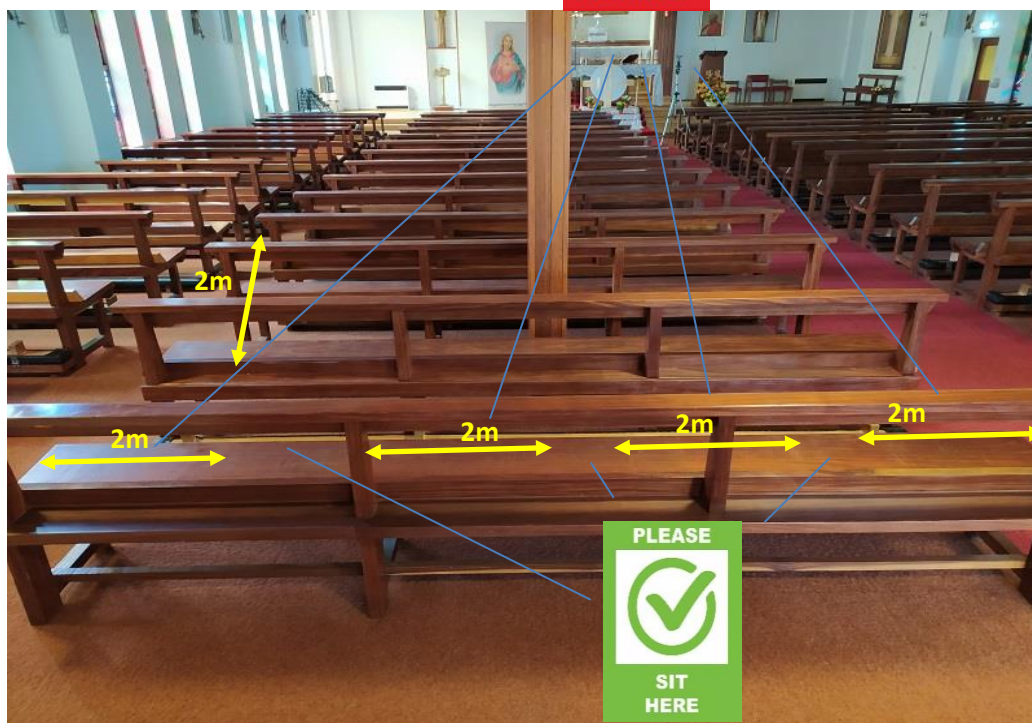


- b) Appropriate signage/stickers with direction arrow should be installed to ensure one-way system and maintain at least 2m social distance:

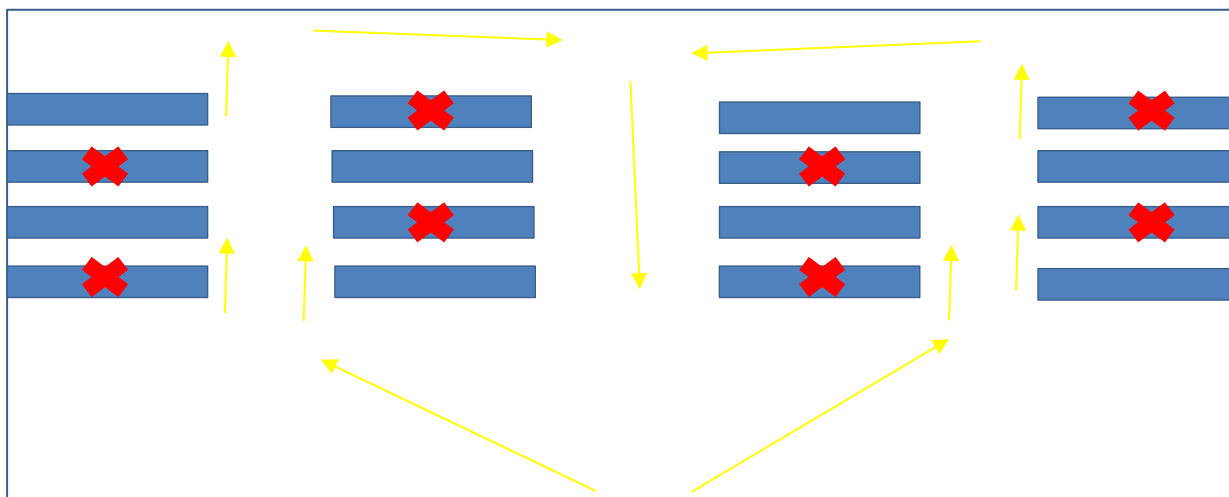


An appointed Stewards should support the individual prayers, especially to familiarise themselves with signage and traffic flow.

- c) Seating spaces should be marked to allow to keep at least 2m social distancing once sitting and/or kneeling to pray:



To enter the bench in the middle row an individual prayer should go to the right and access bench from the right. To leave should go to the left and exit through the middle walkway of the church. The side benches could be only occupied by one individual prayer in each bench to maintain social distancing. It should be one bay gap between the back and front bench.



The above picture presents the proposed social distancing in relation to the benches used by individual prayers and a traffic flow.

- d) The adequate signage is needed to indicate entrance and exit.



- e) It is recommended to install additional signage, as a reminder about social distancing requirements:



## Control of premises:

- 1) All Clinically extremely vulnerable people must be strongly advised to stay at home and do not attend religious services/place of worship. This is for their own safety as they are classified as a group of the people at the higher risk. The place of worship should notify the clinically extremely vulnerable people about the risk and inform them that they should not attend a place of worship.
- 2) All Clinically vulnerable people are advised to stay at home as much as possible and, if they do go out, they have to take particular care to minimise contact with others outside their household or support bubble. The place of worship should notify the clinically vulnerable people about the risk level to them before they will decide to visit a place of worship for pray.
- 3) All Individual Prayers (incl. Stewards and person responsible for cleaning) should be informed by parish that if:
  - they have any symptoms of coronavirus (a high temperature, a new, continuous cough or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste)
  - they are waiting for a coronavirus test result
  - they were tested positive for coronavirus – this means they have coronavirus
  - they live with someone who has symptoms, is waiting for a test result or has tested positive
  - someone in their support bubble has symptoms, is waiting for a test result or has tested positive

shouldn't come to place of worship to reduce a likelihood of spreading a coronavirus.

- 4) Hand sanitiser should be provided at the entrance to place of worship and all individual prayers should be instructed by Steward that they should sanitised their hands prior to enter.
- 5) All leaflets should be removed as they could increase a risk of spreading a coronavirus disease.
- 6) A place of worship should limit a number of the Individual Prayers to reduce a likelihood of spreading the coronavirus disease. Additional signage could be installed to inform individual prayers.





## Cleaning and waste disposal

- 1) All surfaces classified as “high risk” such as benches, handles, etc. should be thoroughly cleaned to reduce a risk of spreading the coronavirus disease.
- 2) Place of worship should be cleaned on a regular basis to reduce a chance of spreading the coronavirus disease using the right/effective cleaning solutions.
- 3) Person responsible for cleaning needs to be careful and equipped with the adequate PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) such as disposable gloves and aprons. A disposable PPE should be replaced when damaged and removed after cleaning process is finished.
- 4) Any waste should be double bagged and if kept for at least 72 hours then can be disposed in a normal way of the waste disposal.



Effective against Coronavirus and Norovirus in accordance with EN 14476

## PPE (Personal Protective Equipment)

- 1) Person responsible for cleaning should be equipped with the adequate PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) such as disposable gloves and aprons. A disposable PPE should be replaced when damaged and removed after cleaning process is finished.
- 2) Stewards should be equipped with disposable gloves, in case they will need to provide any assistance to Individual Prayer (i.e. First Aid, etc.). An additional PPE may be considered if there is a risk that Stewards are not able to maintain a social distance of the minimum 2m.



## Information:

To ensure the instruction and signage, related to mitigation of COVID-19 risk, is fully understandable there may be a need of translation, due to possible language barrier.