

Ss Peter & Paul Church

Volunteering during Coronavirus (COVID 19): Church cleaners

COVID-19 spreads in a similar way to flu. When someone with the virus coughs or exhales, releasing droplets of infected fluid, most of these droplets fall on nearby surfaces and objects e.g. tables, seating. When people touch contaminated surfaces and then touch their eyes, nose or mouth, they can catch the virus and so the cycle goes on.

Where people are near someone infected with COVID-19 (less than two metres between individuals), they can breathe in droplets which have been coughed out or exhaled.

Why cleaning matters

Keeping buildings clean and hygienic is one of the ways to reduce the risk of spreading the virus. This means that, as well as the cleaning that would normally be carried out, additional, targeted cleaning is needed.

Who should clean?

If you are shielding or in one of the groups vulnerable to severe symptoms of COVID-19, you should NOT help with stewarding or cleaning during COVID-19.

If you live with someone who has been advised to shield during COVID-19, you should also consider whether assisting with cleaning is the safest way to help your church.

What additional cleaning tasks are needed?

COVID-19 survives on hard surfaces for up to 72 hours. Hard surfaces that are touched frequently by multiple people need to be cleaned regularly. This means at least every day the church is open and during the opening period depending on how many visitors pass through and how many surfaces are likely to be touched.

COVID-19 survives for shorter periods on textile surfaces (3- 6 hours depending on the type of fabric). These surfaces can still be a source of transmission if they are likely to be touched frequently by multiple people. These surfaces e.g. upholstered seating, kneelers, should be removed or access restricted.

Historic fixtures and fittings require specialist cleaning treatments. Access should be strictly limited to avoid having to clean and disinfect these items during COVID-19.

We have restricted access to certain parts of the church (kitchen, Apostles' Room and Toilet area). This will reduce the amount of extra cleaning needed.

If you're not sure how to carry out a task e.g. operate equipment, use cleaning products or what PPE to wear. Ask Alison or the Steward/Sacristan to explain. If you see something that does not look safe and you cannot easily and safely put it right yourself, report it to someone who can.

[How to keep yourself and others safe during cleaning?](#)

In addition to general COVID-19 precautions you should follow these guidelines:

Wear personal protective equipment (PPE) when cleaning e.g. gloves, an apron and a face covering depending on the task. Check the cleaning plan. Do not share PPE. This increases the risk of spreading the virus.

Avoid carrying out cleaning tasks at times when the building is busy. This will make it easier to observe social distancing and avoids accidents, particularly slips and trips where surfaces are wet or there are trailing cables.

If you work in a team, try to work with the same people to reduce the number of people you meet. If you are working in the building on your own, make sure someone knows you are there and let them know when you have finished. This can be a family member, friend or your Parish Priest.

Wipe down cleaning equipment (e.g. mops, buckets, vacuum cleaner) with an anti-viral sanitiser before and after use.

Dispose of used PPE, cleaning cloths and other associated rubbish after use. These should be double bagged and put in the general waste bin near the organ and the Exit. Wash your hands regularly with soapy water for at least 20 seconds and always after removing PPE or handling waste and use the hand sanitizer provided.

List of things/area to be cleaned in Ss Peter & Paul:

All Doors and handles.

Priest's Sacristy area plus microphone equipment.

Confessional (prayer kneeler, priest's seating area, Lights controller

All pews, (tops, seats, cushions)

Areas around the sanitisers.

Front and side porch area.

Altar and Sanctuary area (lectern, ambo, Priest's seat)

What if you have symptoms or have been asked to self-isolate?

Stay at home if you or someone you live with starts to show symptoms or you are advised to do so because you have been in contact with someone who has the virus. Tell your Parish Priest as soon as possible.

If a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 is linked to a parish building, a deep clean will be needed. Volunteer cleaners should **NOT** be involved in deep cleaning.

Thank you for helping during this difficult time.