Meeting House COVID-19 Risk Assessment Supplement

Risk assessment for Watford Meeting, part of Luton and Leighton Area Meeting

Note: This risk assessment is only for re-opening for worship. Other users will not commence before the beginning of September, and a fresh risk assessment will be undertaken for that phase.

Please read this document alongside "How Watford Quaker Meeting is Re-opening for Worship", and the building diagram.

Completed by Jonathan Carmichael, Steve Kaim-Caudle, Jane Keay, Tony Cross 18/7/2020, updated to show actions completed 1/8/2020.

Agreed by Area Meeting Trustees 21/7/2020

Next review due 23/8/2020

See online:

- BYM's <u>9 Steps to re-opening Quaker meeting houses and worship spaces safely document</u>
- Government guidance for England
 - regarding places of worship
 - and other uses of a meeting house : in England "multi-purpose community facilities", and in Scotland "gatherings and occasions".
 You can find links to the main guidance on the BYM Coronavirus webpage.

No.	What is the risk?	What can go wrong, how, who might be affected?	What are you already doing?	What further action is necessary?	Action by whom?	Action by when?	Date done
1.	Levels of accountability	Role-holders and employees/volunteers	 AM trustees are keeping up-to-date with Government advice and legislation as it changes. 	•	JC		ongoing
	andmake decisions aboutresponsibilityre-openingare not clearbuildings/re-startingin LM/AMworship without	• AM trustees are aware of the needs and activities within the meeting house and are working with local role-holders and employees/volunteers to decide when it is reasonable to re-start activities.	•	JC		ongoing	
		careful enough consideration of risk and responsibility	• AM trustees are working with local role-holders and employees/volunteers to put in place measure that enable meetings houses to re-start activities safely.	•	JC		ongoing
			• Insurers of buildings have been consulted by AM trustees to ensure that the building is covered and any measures that the insurance provider requires have been put into place.	•	MS		Early July
			• The overall decisions on re-opening were made by Watford local meeting's business meeting on 26 July 2020, and area meeting trustees agreed the re-opening on 21 July 2020.	•	JC		26/7
			•	•			
2.	The building isn't in a fit state to open after a period	Electrrical systems may not work. The building may have fabric issues.	 Cleaning is carried out before reopening A notice explaining we have a cleaning procedure in line with guidance is visible at the front of the building 	•	JC		1/8
	of being	There may be	• The building has been checked for dust and mould	•	JK		18/7
	closed.	significant dust/mould.	 The building has been thoroughly aired and remains ventilated ahead of re-opening. 	•	JK		18/7

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		Water systems will	• Electrical systems have remained in working order.	•	JK		18/7
		need to be flushed through before being used.	• Run the water from all taps and other hot and cold water-outlets for at least five minutes to ensure the water system has been thoroughly flushed through.	•	JK		1/8
			• There are no signs of people entering the building without permission.	•	JK		18/7
			 The building is secure and there is no damage to access and ventilation points. 	•	JK		18/7
			•	•			
3.	Building users don't understand the need for the meeting	Members of the community, staff, volunteers and other building users do not follow the new ways of	 New practices are communicated clearly and succinctly to all users of the building. Initially explained after meeting for worship 26/7. Explained in writing with notices 25/7 and 1/8. Arranged for welcomers to explain upon arrival. 	•	JC		1/8
	house operating in a	working and risk transmitting the virus.	• There are no exceptions to the new practices and ways of working	•	JC		Ongoing
	new way.		• Communication to groups is supplemented with signage within the building, updated on the website and social media channels to alert users and visitors to ways of operating.	•	SKC JC		1/8 1/8
			• Regular reminders of new ways of working are sent and changes highlighted as they happen.	•	JC		Ongoing
		• Expectations are made clear of what is being done by the Quaker meeting and what is expected of all building users. See explanation to members and attenders – the only users in this phase	•	JC		26/7	
			• The risk assessment is published online.	•	JC		1/8

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4.	Social distancing not possible in	People may get too close to each other and risk transmitting	 Signs are put in place where possible to direct people to entrances. There are no exits that need signs due to layout. 	•	SKC		1/8
	external area of Quaker	the virus when coming on and off the	 Car park assessed as not requiring additional measures, as sufficient space for social distancing. 	•	JC/SKC		18/7
	meeting house property.	property.	• External signage in place to remind people about social distancing and the Government guidelines for the relevant part of the UK.	•	SKC		1/8
			•	•			
5.	Use of Transmission of the equipment in the meeting house. Transmission of the wirus from sharing equipment in the meeting house.	 Any non-essential equipment is taken out of the meeting rooms and stored in locked cupboards or away from public spaces of the building. The kitchen and West room have been closed, and are being used as stores. 	•	JK/JC/SKC		18/7	
			 Equipment that is still needed is assessed for the risk it poses to the user(s). If used by more than one person there is a cleaning routine in place to ensure cleanliness between each use. For this phase, the weekly clean, plus a week's interval between users, is sufficient. 	•	JC/SKC/JK		18/7
			• Copies of <i>Quaker faith & practice</i> , bibles, <i>Advices and queries</i> , other leaflets or loose papers have been removed from the meeting rooms and lobbies.	•	JC/SKC/JK		18/7
			 Make Friends aware of Qf&p online, <u>https://qfp.quaker.org.uk/</u>, and Bible Gateway, <u>www.biblegateway.com</u>, for access to religious 	•	JC		18/7

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			texts that are available on personal devices, in written explanation.				
			 Book shelves are out of action: the Library (West Room) is closed; bookshelves in the inner lobby emptied; children's library covered by a cloth hanging 	•	JK		1/8
			Leaflets rack and tables with displayed leaflets are removed	•	JK		1/8
			• Eating and drinking on the premises is restricted and possible only within the specific Government guidance – only drinks people bring for themselves.	•	JC		18/7
			• Kitchens and other areas where there is access to a lot of utensils or equipment should be kept off-limits.	•	JC/SKC/JK		18/7
			Collections are online only.	•	SKC		18/7
6.	Possible contamination throughout	The virus could transmit between people within due to	• Hand sanitisers are available to those entering and exiting the building where handwashing is not possible.	•	JK		18/7
	the building. Meeting	contact with each other or contaminated	• There is plenty of soap, disposable hand wipes and toilet paper.	•	JK		1/8
	house is not ready for first use.	surfaces in shared spaces.	• For next phase: Get in touch with hirers to agree how cleaning will be done before, during and after use. Clarify extra measures being taken to make the building safe to use.	•			
			• Special attention to be paid to cleaning light switches, door handles and other furniture that people touch regularly.	•	JK		1/8

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			• List special cleaning aspects, with sign-off sheet on wall, agreed with trustees in project group.		JK/SKC/JC		1/8
			 Plan and manage people entering and leaving the building and/or provide clear signage. Diagram of routes circulated with notices. 		SKC JC		1/8 25/7
			Written notes for 2 welcomers and 1 doorkeeper		JC		1/8
			• Enter and leave the building one household at a time.	•			18/7
			• Plan and manage the movement of people throughout the meeting house.	•			18/7
			 Doors to the main meeting room, Front and east rooms will be open for ventilation. Designated internal fire doors (kitchen and to the flat) remain closed. 	•	JC/SKC/JK		18/7
			 Each room assessed to determine the maximum number of people that can be accommodated to enable adequate social distancing (currently 2 metres). Figures in brackets show extra spaces for people from the same household/bubble. Main meeting room = 16 (+8) Front + East Rooms together = 12 (+1) [Front Room only = 7 (+2)] [East Room only = 5 (+1)] [West Room = 5 very precisely, or 4] 	•	JC/SKC/JK		18/7
			 Chairs positioned at a reasonable distance apart (2m) or markers used. Face-to-face seating is avoided. Additional chairs allow pairs from same household / bubble sitting together. Note that the dimensions of the rooms allow no more flexibility 	•	JC/SKC/JK		18/7

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			in the main meeting room, and little flexibility in the other rooms.				
			• The Front and East rooms are made available as a second space for worship, plus the patio.	•	JC/SKC/JK /CP		18/7
7.	Possible contamination within non- public spaces (offices or similar)	Workforce, employees or volunteers might transmit virus between each other or members of the meeting or public.	•Not applicable	•			
8.	Possible contamination within children's meeting space and other meeting	Possible transmission of the virus between people or from surfaces	 Not applicable in this phase – children's meeting continuing online only. All children's items are already inside closed cupboards. Items below are retained for convenient use in next phase 	•			
	rooms		 As above – cleaning carried out, rooms aired and check electrical, water systems. 	•			
			 <u>Specific Government guidance for including</u> <u>children and young people to be followed.</u> 	•			
			 Maximum occupancy level clearly visible on or near room entrances. 	•			
			• No sharing of books, pens or any learning materials. Children to work using their own books or on paper, feedback to be given verbally.	•			
			• Children to bring their own water bottles or drink from disposable cups provided.	•			

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			• All soft furnishings removed (none). Not to use floor tiles.	•			
			• Decide who will be responsible for the cleaning of equipment and resources and what cleaning products will be used.	•			
			• All toys that are hard to clean are removed from learning/play areas until they can be used again, and cleaning arrangements are in place for any remaining.	•			
			• The outdoor play equipment has been risk assessed as low risk, in view of the low frequency of use.	•	JC/SKC/JK		18/7
9.	Possible contamination	Possible virus transmission from	• Cleaning is carried out before reopening and confirmation of this is visible at the entrance.	•	JC/SKC/JK		18/7
	from the use of toilets	touching surfaces, towels and fixtures	 Access to toilet areas in socially distanced manner. Closing off 1 ladies cubicle and gents urinals. Gents and Ladies become uni-sex 	•	JC/SKC/JK		18/7
			• Hands must be washed thoroughly after using toilet facilities.	•	JC/SKC/JK		18/7
			• Sufficient soap will be available at all times in all toilets, this will be checked each day the building is used by the Warden and will be replaced/topped up in between if required.	•	JK		Ongoing
			• Hand drying is by disposable towels.	•	JC/SKC/JK		18/7
			• Bins in toilets will be emptied daily (using bin liners) and this will be reviewed with emptying increased more frequently if required.	•	JK		Ongoing

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			 Young children should be accompanied by their parent/guardian when using the toilet or within area meeting safeguarding guidelines. 	•	JC/SKC/JK		18/7
10.	Cleaning meeting house after	Possible transmission of the virus to building users or	 Government guidance will be followed. Consideration will be given to closing the meeting house for 72 hours with no access permitted. 	•	JC/SKC/JK		18/7
	known exposure to someone with the	employees/volunteers.	• If it is not possible to close the whole building, close off the area that has been contaminated and carry out a deep clean before allowing the space to be used again.	•	JC/SKC/JK		18/7
	coronavirus symptoms		•	•			
11.	Airborne transmission of coronavirus at worship	Transmission of the virus between people within the same space without having	• Continue using online worship and blend online and in-person worship in two parts of the meeting house, plus the patio, to enable all Friends to access meeting for worship.	•	JC/SKC/JK CP		18/7 20/7
12.	and/or Quaker activities.	physical contact.	 Instruct employees and worshippers not to attend meeting/work if they have symptoms of Coronavirus (COVID-19) and to follow guidelines (See below). Explained and agreed with the Warden by JC. Explained to clearner by Warden 	•	JC/SKC/JK JC		18/7 18/7 1/8
			•Send home anyone who has any of the coronavirus symptoms, <u>www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-</u> <u>COVID-19/symptoms/</u> . A copy of these as currently in force should be available to whoever is the responsible person/ to employees: included in the written notes for welcomers, and in explanation.		JC/		1/8

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			 Explained and agreed with the Warden. Explained to cleaner by Warden 	•	JC JK		18/7 18/7
			• Do not allow anyone with new or worsening signs or symptoms to return to meeting for worship in person until they have spent the 14 day quarantine period or have been tested and are not COVID-19 positive. Welcomers will ask arrivals.	•	JC/SKC/JK		18/7
			• Do not allow an individual with known close contact to a person who is confirmed to have COVID-19 to return to meeting for worship in person until the end of the 14-day self-quarantine period from the last date of exposure.	•	JC/SKC/JK		18/7
			 Worshippers from different households/support bubbles must maintain at least 2 metre separation from each other. The potential pinch point is in the lobbies and if people queue for the toilets. This is reduced by the one-way system, which allows for a separate queue for toilets tailing into the Front Room. The only exception may be for very brief passing in lobby to/from toilets. 	•	JC/SKC/JK		18/7
			• Everyone is expected to follow government guidance on face coverings – legally enforceable from 8/8. This is included in the written	•	JC		1/8
			explanation.Purchase a supply of disposable face coverings for		JC		1/8
			those needing onePlan to purchase more face coverings		JK		1/8

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			 Reduce the number of people coming to worship to those who have higher need, to enable sufficient seats with social distancing measures. Current estimates suggest that with expanding the rooms, it is unlikely that active measures will be necessary for this aspect. 	•	JC/SKC/JK		18/7
			• Stagger start/finish and arrival/departure times to reduce congestion and contact at all times – relying on natural behaviours, and coming early.	•	Planning Group		18/7
			 Consider planning/booking who will attend in person: The need for pre-booking has been assessed, and decision is that capacity (explained earlier) of 28 plus potentially 8 due to pairs, plus 5 overflow (see below) plus outside should be well above the likely attendance. Typical attendance before the pandemic (including families) was 35. This will be reviewed in light of numbers attending. If full capacity is reached, there is overflow space for 2 people to sit in the inner lobby, and 3 to stand in the main lobby. After that the building 	•	Planning Group JC		13/7
			 will be full, and people can be outside only. Consider temperature checks for employees (and staff in hiring organisations) when they arrive at work: decision is to ask Warden and cleaner to 	•	JK	30/7	
			self-monitor for a temperature.Agreed with WardenCleaner instructed by Warden		JK JC		18/7 1/8

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			• Use a one-way system within the meeting house and encourage people to fill seats furthest from the door.	•	JC		18/7
			 Use signage and floor markings to ensure the two- metre distance is maintained between people. Signs in Front Room. Decided against floor tape in Front Room, as too slippery. Line of tape in Lobby to indicate toilet queue. 	•	SKC SKC/JC/JK JK		1/8 1/8 1/8
			 Ensure good ventilation by opening windows and keeping external doors open, and internal doors open (main meeting room, Front and East room, internal sliding door) 	•	JC/SKC/JK		18/7
			 Rearrange tasks to enable them to be done by one person, or by maintaining social distancing measures (two metres). Not Required 	•	JC/SKC/JK		18/7
			• Discourage socialising indoors and encourage one large group conversation when seated – joys and concerns. People will be asked to leave the building and have any conversations in the gardens, socially distanced.	•	JC/SKC/JK		18/7
			• Ensure arrangements are in place for monitoring compliance: review meeting on 2 August, review during week for following 2 weeks, and feedback collated to JC ongoing.	•	JC/SKC/JK		18/7
			•	•			
13.			• Reiterate the guidance on the appropriate cleaning and hand washing hygiene with signs.	•	JK		18/7

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	Surface transmission of the virus.		 Provide hand sanitiser (minimum 60% alcohol based) when entering and leaving meeting house. (rather than hand washing) at three locations. 	•	JK		18/7
			 Welcomers encourage everyone to sanitise their hands upon entering the building 	•	JC/SKC/JK		18/7
			• Warden to take regular breaks to wash hands.	•	JC/SKC/JK		18/7
			 Enhanced cleaning procedures will be in place across the meeting house, particularly in communal areas and at touch points, including procedures for cleaning between events or activities. Particular attention must be paid to: entry and exit points, light switches, taps and washing facilities, toilet flush and seats, door handles, hand rails on staircases, corridors. Put in place a cleaning regime and confirm whose responsibility it will be to carry out the cleaning (toilets, kitchen, high contact surfaces): cleaner. Current phase: Cleaning on Wednesday by cleaner, allows 3 days between Worship and cleaning and next Worship. Monday clean of doorhandles and 	•	JK/SKC/JC		13/7
			toilet flushes by Warden in between.Confirm whose responsibility it will be for		JK		1/8
			removing potentially contaminated waste from the building: cleaner and Warden (if necessary).		JC		1/8
			• All waste receptacles have disposable bin liners.		JK		1/8

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			 Implement cleaning record in lobby to be initialled each time the building is cleaned. Warden must be sure the building was cleaned sufficiently before each day's opening (currently only Sundays) 				
			• Cleaning procedures should be in place for any equipment that is used by more than one person in the meeting house or offices – chairs and tables	•	JK		1/8
			 Employees and others encouraged to remove clothes when they return home, and wash them immediately at 60 degrees. Confirmed with Warden on 18/7. Confirmed with cleaner 	•	JC JK		18/7 1/8
			•	•			
14.	Possible contamination from a	Staff, Quakers and other building users are exposed to	• Anyone displaying symptoms should not be at the meeting house. Welcomers will ask and turn away.	•	JC/SKC/JK		18/7
	symptomatic person on site.	someone who could have COVID-19 and transmit the virus.	 An accurate record of all people entering and leaving the building is being kept securely for 21 days to assist the <u>NHS test and trace service</u>. Welcomers tick off people on the printed list of regular attenders, and adding name and phone number of others. See written explanation, which 	•	JC		1/8
			 covers consent. Record numbers of people declining consent. Print a supply of lists. Provide a box file for fresh lists and a box file for dated completed lists, stored in locked walk-in cupboard. Remove sheets and dispose of confidentially after 21 days. 		JK		1/8

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			 Should someone arrive at the meeting house with symptoms, develop symptoms on their way to the meeting house or whilst at the meeting house they will be required to leave the building immediately. If they need collecting, they must sit on one of the external benches, or in the West Room, supervised by an overseer or another adult, who will be required to wear a fluid resistant surgical face mask, disposable gloves, and apron for the duration of the supervision. Next of kin will be contacted if required. The individual supervising will then remove all PPE and immediately dispose of it into a plastic bag outside and wash hands thoroughly. They will be encouraged to go home and shower/change clothes. 	•	JC/SKC/JK		18/7
			 A suppy of PPE for this purpose (aprons, disposable face coverings, gloves) together and clearly marked, in the locked walk-in cupboard. 				1/0
15.	Falls in outdoor worship	Worshippers may trip or fall on uneven ground.	•The ground for outdoor worship has been assessed as safe for walking by people with a range of abilities.	•	JC/SKC/JK		18/7
16.			•	•			
10.			•				
17.			•	•			
1/.			•	•			
18.			•	•			
			•	•			