

Examples of physical distancing in the church sanctuary

Congregations must ensure that everyone attending or visiting their church buildings can practice physical distancing at all times. Some congregations will be able to adapt their space very easily, whilst for others this may take some time. Congregations should focus on how people can arrive, enter, move around and leave their church buildings whilst maintaining a 2 metre distance at all times. It is also important when you consider physical distancing in your church buildings that you think about how people will access hand hygiene facilities such as water and alcohol-based hand gels whilst maintaining a 2 metre distance.

The following photographs provide an example of how congregations have been preparing to reopen their church buildings with physical distancing in place. Photograph A shows how physical distancing can be achieved in a sanctuary with chairs set out for private prayer where individuals will be moving freely in and out of the sanctuary. Photograph B shows how physical distancing can be achieved when providing worship and other ceremonies in a sanctuary with pews. Photograph C shows how physical distancing can be achieved in the same sanctuary as in 'A' above when providing worship and other ceremonies. It is important to remember that every church building and congregation is different, and congregations should take as much time as needed to adapt their space to allow for physical distancing.

Photograph A – physical distancing in a sanctuary with chairs set out for private prayer



Photograph B - physical distancing in a sanctuary with pews set out for worship and other ceremonies



Photograph C - physical distancing in a sanctuary with chairs set out for worship and other ceremonies

