

Updated Covid-19 Guidelines for Readers and Residents July 2021

Introduction

On 19 July the UK Government removed most legal restrictions which had been imposed in response to the Covid-19 virus. But the virus will not have gone away. Rather, in this phase responsibility for handling the virus will shift significantly to individuals and organisations.

At Tyndale House we are committed to fostering an evangelical research community, and to do so as safely as is reasonably possible. We also enjoy a close relationship with the University of Cambridge which will have its own procedures, led by risk assessments, such as 1 metre social distancing and the strong advice to use face masks in many settings.

We recognize that members of the Tyndale community will have different views on the relative risks of Covid and the relative benefits of measures meant to mitigate it. Bearing all these factors in mind, Tyndale House has decided upon the following course of action from 22nd July.

1. Library Opening Hours

The library will return to pre-lockdown opening hours. On week-days and Saturdays it will be open from 8.00 am – 10.00 pm. It will remain closed on Sundays.

2. Signing into the Library

We are required by law to keep a record of anyone who is present in the building. Please continue to tick the sign in sheet located on the Library Door.

For those who use the NHS Covid19 app, a QR code has been made available next to the Library and Front Office entrance for you to scan when arriving on site. **If you choose to use this code, we still ask that you register manually as well.**

If you live off site, please ensure that you sign in whenever you enter the Tyndale House site. If you live on site, please remember to sign in on a daily basis whenever you enter the Library.

3. COVID-19 Symptoms and self-isolation.

If you have any of the symptoms associated with COVID-19, please follow the instructions here: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/main-symptoms/>

If you or a member of your household is unwell with symptoms of Covid-19 and you have been on the Tyndale House site in recent days please stay at home and inform Simon Sykes, Ayi Jihu or a member of the Tyndale House staff as soon as possible. Please do not enter the Tyndale House site until you have been tested with a PCR test and have received confirmation that you are not infected with COVID-19.

If you are resident on site, you and your family should not leave your residential accommodation until you have been tested with a PCR test and have received confirmation that you are not infected with COVID-19.

4. Lateral Flow Tests

We would encourage all members of staff and residents to have access to a Lateral Flow Test. These can be ordered at no cost online: <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

5. Handwashing

We continue to request that everyone washes their hands thoroughly and regularly and uses hand-sanitizer when entering the building. Hand washing facilities are available on the ground floor outside the library entrance.

6. Face Masks

We recognize both the God-given expressiveness of the face in human interaction, and yet that face masks may play a role in limiting the spread of the virus. From 21st July face masks will not be mandatory, however, we would ask all people present on site to continue to wear masks when moving around the library building and the 1908 house.

7. Social distancing

In general, we think that community and friendship can be built as well at a distance of a metre or more. We are free to shake hands and embrace, which have been traditional expressions of friendship. However, during a pandemic we must also ask whether these actions are beneficial relative to the risk that they pose.

In order to facilitate distancing, we will have relatively low maximum occupancy numbers for our communal rooms. Maximum numbers for indoor meeting spaces.

Room	Maximum numbers	To be used by
Upper Hex	12	Readers any time
Dining Room	6	Readers lunch time only
Common Room	10	Readers lunch time only and coffee times when coffee not served outside
Taylor Room	6	Staff use only – Pre-booked

8. Fresh Air

We intend to hold Chapel and offer coffee outside as much as possible. While the Common Room will become available for readers to meet and eat their lunch, we hope that everyone will do so

outdoors whenever they can. When we do meet indoors, windows and doors should be as open as is reasonably possible and surfaces should be sprayed and wiped with the available products. Within the library, we want to encourage the use of open windows on the garden side (unfortunately windows on the Selwyn Gardens side cannot be opened).

We will be placing air quality meters around the building. In line with Government guidance we will be seeking to provide fresh air by opening windows and doors to allow better air flow through the building. We are currently investigating the purchase of a marquee for use in the winter months although this will be dependent upon planning approval.

Of course, as we go into the autumn and winter, we may well face both a rise in the incidence of Covid just as the weather worsens. We will have to make tough decisions about the trade-off between Covid safety and comfort. Get ready to wrap up warm!

We thank you for your continued patience and understanding at this time.