

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Information for Mothers' Union Members

Information is posted on the central Mothers' Union website and will be reviewed and updated as the situation evolves. However, all guidance will continue to reflect appropriate *Public Health and Government advice*. Please check the central website regularly.

The love and prayers of Worldwide President, Sheran Harper, Worldwide Board Members and Staff go out to all who are combatting, or preparing to combat, the COVID-19 virus across the globe.

Mothers' Union takes the safety and wellbeing of our members, volunteers and staff extremely seriously, and all are encouraged to follow the guidance of government and local Church in deciding how to respond.

We continue to monitor the situation around COVID-19 closely and are following Government advice (UK).

Mothers' Union Meetings

Meetings are a key part of fellowship for members. At this time, we suggest you consider the risks associated with meeting upon a case by case basis and take into consideration the age and health profile of attendees, informed by the Government's guidance. If meetings do take place, you should follow good hygiene practices. You should ensure that anyone feeling at all unwell does not attend any gathering.

The Church of England has also released advice, with a specific guidance around administration of the chalice and the sharing of peace which may also be of interest to members.

Government Advice in the UK as at 12th March 2020

- All people with flu-like symptoms – a fever above 37.8C or a persistent cough- should stay at home, away from other people, for seven days.
- Schools should not take trips abroad.
- Older people and those with pre-existing health conditions should avoid cruises.

In addition, ALL individuals should follow good hygiene practices including:

- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze.
- Put used tissues in the bin straight away.
- Wash your hands with soap and water often – use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available.
- Try to avoid close contact with people who are unwell.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Do not touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean.

Some groups are more at risk than others from COVID-19, these include those:

- 60 years of age and over.
- That have a long-term medical condition – for example, heart disease, lung disease, diabetes, cancer or high blood pressure.
- That are having cancer treatment.
- Those that are having treatment for autoimmune diseases, such as rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, multiple sclerosis (MS) and inflammatory bowel diseases.
- Those with HIV.
- Those that have had an organ transplant or a bone-marrow transplant.

For centrally planned events, the following guidance has been placed on the website area for each event:

❖ **Thy Kingdom Come, 22nd May 2020, Coventry**

Currently, this event is still planned to go ahead.

If you have not yet booked your travel for this event then we advise you to wait until we issue a further update. If you are keen to book your travel at this time, then we advise you to book the cheapest flexible/cancellable travel you can. If you have already booked your travel, you should not do anything at the moment.

We will continue to monitor the current situation and will update this advice again on or before the beginning of April.

❖ **Growing in Hope and Confidence – Together, 15th – 19th June 2020, High Leigh Conference Centre**

Currently, this event is still planned to go ahead.

If you have not yet booked your travel for this event then we advise you wait until we issue a further update. If you are keen to book your travel at this time, then we advise you book the cheapest flexible/cancellable option possible. If you have already booked your travel, you should not do anything at this time.

We will continue to monitor the current situation and will update this advice again on or before the beginning of April.

❖ **Annual Gathering, 25th – 26th September 2020, Belfast**

Currently this event is still planned to go ahead.

We strongly advise that you wait to book travel at this time. If you are keen to book travel at this time, then you should book the cheapest flexible or refundable option possible. If you have already booked your travel, you should not do anything at this time.

Useful websites:

The WHO is also a valuable source of information:

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

Guidance in the Republic of Ireland is available on: <https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/c36c85-covid-19-coronavirus/>

Church of England Advice

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches>

Link to Mothers' Union website for ease of reference:

<https://www.mothersunion.org/news/12032020-coronavirus-covid-19-information-mothers-union>