

## Scottish Government 'Phase 3' Easing of Lockdown

From 15th July:

Places of worship can open for communal worship for up to 50 people, with distancing measures but no singing

An easing of lockdown restrictions to enable funerals and marriages to take place in churches but, again, restricted to 20 people and with distancing

People can meet in extended groups:  
**Indoors:** 3 households, 8 people  
**Outdoors:** 5 households, 15 people  
Meet 4 other households each day.

### For **Scottish Episcopal Churches** in the **Diocese of Edinburgh** this means:

Churches can open for communal worship for limited numbers but does not imply that churches are now *expected* to

Funerals & marriages can take place with limits on numbers and carefully managed cleaning. For baptisms, refer to Pastoral Guidance document

Other Phase 3 Govt permitted users of premises (e.g. childcare) can restart activities with limits & agreement on cleaning.

Vestry, meetings, social events etc.: must follow Govt meeting guidelines of 3 houses, 8 people (indoors) and 5 houses, 15 people (outdoors)



All proposals to re-open church buildings are a clergy/vestry decision.

The church's plans **MUST** be approved by the bishop.

The full SEC guidelines and a form for submitting plans are here:

**[GUIDANCE FOR PHASE 3 OF LOCKDOWN EASING](#)**

The **NEW** pro-forma should be sent to the Bishop via [BishopsPA@dioceseofedinburgh.org](mailto:BishopsPA@dioceseofedinburgh.org)

