

TONBRIDGE
SPIRITUALIST CENTRE

Reopening Phases

Prepared by: Secretary

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Foreword

Since the United Kingdom lockdown started on March 23rd, 2020, Tonbridge Spiritualist Centre has been closed for in person services.

This roadmap is being published to provide information regarding what we will be doing to keep you safe when we begin to reopen physically.

The first phase began with the Moving Online publication from the Secretary's Office, two months to the day that lockdown was announced. This phase has been underway now for three weeks, and it is time to think further forward.

This reopening roadmap will set out the plans to reopen the centre to full operation following the further easing of lockdown restrictions in the United Kingdom.

Phase One: Moving Online

Moving Online was the first phase of the reopening roadmap published May 23rd, 2020. The idea was to launch Online Services to begin the movement towards reopening.

The first virtual service was held on the May 24th.

Moving Online meant that we were serving congregation members old and new and it also allowed those who couldn't attend if we were open physically to get a chance to attend and visit our services.

Phase One also meant the beginning of a planning operation to begin planning for further reopening when government guidance changed. This involved rethinking operations, completing a risk assessment, and looking into current Cabinet Office guidance to help us begin to form the basis of our reopening plans.

Phase Two: Slow and Steady

The centre may not immediately reopen when government guidelines change. It is important that systems are trialled and tested, and the risk assessment and solutions are properly in place.

The government roadmap says when describing Step 3:

'The ambition at this step is to open at least some of the remaining businesses and premises that have been required to close, including personal care (such as hairdressers and beauty salons) hospitality (such as food service providers, pubs and accommodation), public places (such as places of worship) and leisure facilities (like cinemas).'

Of course, provided that COVID Secure guidance is met.

This means that from July 4th, if the guidance were to change this would put into action Phase Two which requires:

1. Ordering signage and materials which would assist in the social distancing or crowd control at our centre.
2. Getting in contact with the HPC to arrange a chance to access the hall and test our social distancing arrangements properly before any dates for reopening can be set.

The earliest date in which the centre would reopen would be August 2nd, and this would be a basic service. It would simply be spiritual communication by our visiting medium, just to ensure the measures work in practice before slowly reintroducing other services, such as the raffle and refreshments.

We have already decided the measures which will be enacted when we reopen:

1. Temporary suspension of the raffle and refreshments until safer operation can be introduced.
2. A protective perspex barrier for Jay when he is seated at the entrance.

3. The centre will become cashless until such a point as we can begin to safely use cash again.
4. The toilets will be closed for emergencies only.
5. Attendance groups would be in operation to ensure everyone can access centre.

These measures would alleviate initial issues with reopening until proper systems can be fully implemented to counter the issues each of these raises.

Phase Three: Bring It All Back

The final phase of our reopening would be to return our services to full operation, both with the refreshments and raffle being returned.

In terms of the raffle:

1. The raffle charge could be added to the initial donation, meaning everyone would buy a raffle ticket.
2. The prizes would be on display in the foyer and the numbers would be called in the foyer, this would allow distancing to take place and people to take their prizes and leave.
3. Prizes may be covered with a protective cover or wrapping to prevent coronavirus (COVID-19) particles attaching to the prize itself.

In terms of the refreshments:

1. A to-go system could be put into operation, meaning that only the base drink is prepared and milk and sugar are added via respective to go sachets.
2. A complete self service to-go system could be introduced, where the urn is placed facing towards the hall with teabags and coffee, milk and sugar sachets are provided.
3. A requirement that the servers adequately wash their hands before and after serving each person.

Although, these are both just proposed ideas for ways we could return these optional services to operation. We do hope that by the Christmas break we can have returned to as near normal operation as possible.

Looking Forward

Looking to how the centre might be operating into a long part of the future. It could be possible that some of these measures could carry through until 2022 and beyond.

The centre has been a part of people's routines for over 100 years and we want to welcome people back in person as soon as possible.

But our biggest priority is protecting everyone who wants to come and witness spiritual communication at our centre from coronavirus.