

Covid 19 Risk Assessment for Celebrants taking Wedding Celebrations

Preliminary Information

This document is only intended to act as a template and should not be used as a complete document. A separate risk assessment will need to be undertaken for each ceremony specific to that ceremony and location. It is meant to provide a guideline to best practice. A Risk Assessment is a live document and, as such, the situations it covers may and will change as the guidance itself changes and some areas are relaxed and others tightened. It is important to check the relevant guidance at any one time in the area you live and will be working in. It is possible that the guidance may change between the time the event was planned and when it will be implemented.

It is possible to use the format of this document as the basis for other types of family events such as Naming Ceremonies

Please note Celebrants **only** have responsibility for what happens during the ceremony itself.

The venue staff should be responsible for undertaking a risk assessment of the location but celebrants should check and may wish to request a copy. This will include the provision of effective facilities for personal hygiene e.g. hand wash facilities and sanitising, seating arrangements and physical barriers, cleaning and disinfection etc. That provided by the British Institute of Innkeeping from the Shield Safe Group provides a good example

The venue should be responsible for any Track and Trace but again the Celebrant may wish to check and request a copy. Please note there is no legal requirement for a venue to do this and it is only being done at the request of the government. There may be exceptions to the above such as when the ceremony is to be held in a private location or when there is no venue e.g. a private garden, beach etc. In this case a fuller risk assessment needs to be undertaken to cover all eventualities as it would when ceremonies were performed in this type of location in non-Covid situations. If required a sample form is located at the end of this document which allows for the 30 signatories covered in the government guidance

The aim of any risk assessment should be to

1. Outline all aspects of the ceremony
2. Identify any special risk that Covid-19 presents
3. Identify the level of risk as high, moderate or low
4. Propose action to be taken to reduce or mitigate the risk

For more information as to the guidance used to complete this document please refer to:

General Guidance

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do>

(In particular see point 1.3)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/explainers-52811509>

Face Coverings

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/staying-safe-outside-your-home/staying-safe-outside-your-home>

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/coronavirus/ppe-face-masks/face-coverings-and-face-masks.htm>

Weddings, Civil Partnerships etc.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-small-marriages-and-civil-partnerships/covid-19-guidance-for-small-marriages-and-civil-partnerships#guidance-for-venue-managers>

which refers to the following specifically about private venues and large groups in other venues.

'At present, it is strongly advised that marriage ceremonies, civil partnership formations, or alternative wedding ceremonies should only go ahead where they can be done in a COVID-19 secure environment. It is also advised that the ceremonies are kept as short as reasonably possible such gatherings cannot by law take place in private dwellings, unless very limited circumstances apply such as Urgent Marriages (including deathbed weddings).

By law no more than 15 people can attend any marriage or civil partnership ceremony, even where large numbers could be accommodated with social distancing in a COVID-19 secure venue. 15 is the maximum number for all attendees at the event, including the couple and guests. Anyone working is not included as part of the legal limit.'

Music and Entertainment

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/performing-arts>

Risk Assessment: Extra considerations for Covid19

Date of Ceremony _____

Location of Ceremony

Date of Risk Assessment _____
by _____

Risk Assessment produced

Ceremony	Special Covid-19 Risk	Level of Risk (High, Medium, Low)	Action
<i>Outline what is happening in the ceremony</i>	<i>Identify the risks. What extra risks to normal does Covid-19 present?</i>	<i>Estimate the level of risk. This will change as the level of infection changes</i>	<i>What action can you take to mitigate and reduce the risk</i>

<p>Conducting a ceremony</p>	<p>It is currently against the law for gatherings to take place in private homes (including gardens and other outdoor spaces). Conducting ceremonies at private homes or gardens will mean the celebrant is breaking the law.</p> <p>Where there is no recognised venue e.g. woodlands, beaches, mountain tops etc then this is not considered a COVID-secure venue.</p> <p>Wedding celebrations ceremonies with up to 15 people attending (including the couple) can take place in COVID-19 secure venues.</p> <p>This may be different depending on the tier system and when areas are under special measures. Please ensure you check the</p>	<p>Low – High</p>	<p>To prevent breaking the law, the current advice is to not to conduct ceremonies in private homes or gardens.</p> <p>Venues must have COVID-secure guidelines. Groups of up to 15 may be hosted, but it is imperative to read and be clear of these venue specific guidelines.</p> <p>A 3-tiered system in England has been implemented and Local Special Measures have been introduced into a number of areas following localised spikes. It is possible that these may be introduced in other areas as the situation demands. Please ensure that you check for any special measures in the area where the ceremony is to be held. Please note these are likely to change at very short notice.</p> <p>The maximum number of people allowed to be present by the guidelines INCLUDES the couple, attendants, and guests, not the celebrant and other professionals. It is the responsibility of the venue or organiser to ensure this is adhered to but it may be worth explaining this to the couple when planning a ceremony.</p>
------------------------------	---	-------------------	--

<p>Celebrant</p>	<p>Presence at a number of events and movement during the ceremony</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Minimise movement.</p> <p>Ensure you have read the venue’s risk assessment regarding COVID-19 and are clear on procedures</p> <p>Celebrant to arrive prepared with face mask, own hand sanitiser and other cleaning materials, especially if conducting a ceremony outdoors where they may be a lack of washing facilities.</p> <p>Celebrant to avoid social interaction including close contact or handshaking with couple or guests.</p> <p>Wash hands and/or use sanitiser regularly to avoid cross contamination</p> <p>Leave the ceremony as soon as politely possible.</p>
------------------	--	---------------	---

<p>Guests</p>	<p>Seating of guests</p> <p>Mixing of different households and bubbles</p> <p>Close contact, especially in-doors, may increase chance of catching COVID-19</p> <p>Recording of guest names and contact details</p>	<p>Medium- high</p>	<p>Follow government and venue-specific guidance on numbers of guests invited</p> <p>Ensure seating meets Social Distancing guidelines</p> <p>Encourage clients to put in place a seating plan for the ceremony so that guests know where to go.</p> <p>Encourage bubble seating groups rather than traditional rows or curves</p> <p>Before the ceremony begins, invite each ‘bubble’ to take their seats in turn to prevent congregating in doorways or corridors.</p> <p>Check if the venue is recording contact details for all guests.</p> <p>Ensure that flow in and out of the ceremony room is efficient and that guests do not arrive too early or remain in the room for too long after the ceremony so that social distancing rules are adhered to.</p>
---------------	--	---------------------	--

<p>Guest demographics</p>	<p>Different people have different levels of risk.</p> <p>Are there any people from vulnerable and extremely vulnerable groups present?</p>	<p>Low to high</p>	<p>Special arrangements for seating etc. to be incorporated to ensure they can participate fully in the ceremony</p> <p>Guests to currently be encouraged to wear face masks unless medically exempt. Check the Government Guidelines and the venue COVID-19 guidelines. Please ensure that prior to starting a ceremony you have read and are familiar with the current requirements.</p> <p>Consider attendance via video call if vulnerable groups choose not to attend in person</p>
---------------------------	---	--------------------	--

<p>Music</p>	<p>Who will play music and will it be live or recorded?</p> <p>Is any group singing planned?</p> <p>Who is operating music? What equipment is required?</p>	<p>Low to High</p>	<p>Check location of musicians. Ensure space for appropriate social distancing</p> <p>Scientific research suggests that the playing of wind instruments and group singing increases chance of transmitting COVID-19. Wind instruments present a risk due to deep breathing and, possibly, emissions from the instruments. Currently group singing is not allowed. Singing poses similar problem due to the projected expulsion of air from the lungs. This may change so it is important to check the guidance on this as it is different for professional musicians and depends on location</p> <p>If the celebrant is using their own music system, ensure that it is thoroughly cleaned before and after the ceremony.</p> <p>If a member of the wedding party is organising music, recommend that only one person is in charge to avoid risk of contamination.</p>
--------------	---	--------------------	--

<p>Photographer / Videographer</p>	<p>Presence at a number of events and movement during the ceremony</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Minimise their movement.</p> <p>Consider a fixed location or area that the photographer/ videographer must stay within except for certain parts of the ceremony.</p> <p>Avoid close contact with all others present.</p>
<p>Entry of individual members or the couple</p>	<p>Who will escort them e.g. father, attendants, etc?</p> <p>How many people are in the wedding party?</p> <p>Are they in the same social bubble or separate bubbles?</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Encourage the use of a wide aisle to ensure that people can walk comfortably down the aisle with space between them and the guests.</p> <p>Ensure all the party employ correct social distancing during entry if they are not from the same household/ bubble. It may be different for people doing the same role e.g. an attendant living with one of the couple will be different to one who does not.</p> <p>Ensure wedding party are clear on where they should go on arrival and where their seats will be</p>
<p>Location</p>	<p>Social distancing is important to help prevent transmission of COVID-19, so where will you, as celebrant and the couple be stood during the ceremony?</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Ensure that social distancing is maintained. This may mean changing your own location to what you have normally done.</p>

Public Address System	If a PA is to be used, who will be holding the microphone and when?	Medium	<p>Consider if a PA is necessary. This decision must consider the venue (indoors or outdoors) and how far you are projecting your voice.</p> <p>Scientific research suggests that, similar to singing, higher vocal tasks (shouting, projecting your voice) increase the risk of transmitting COVID-19. It may be safer to use a PA system in situations of prolonged voice projection.</p> <p>Wiping down equipment between different users and before and after the ceremony</p> <p>Having one person stepping forward to speak and use a microphone at a time</p> <p>Using a microphone stand so contact is not necessary.</p> <p>Ideally the celebrant will have a separate microphone to that of readers or other contributors</p>
Participants	Who is taking part in the ceremony	Medium	<p>Ensure movement is kept to a minimum</p> <p>Could participants speak from their seats? If not possible, have one person stepping forward at a time.</p>

<p>Ring exchange</p>	<p>Minimise contact of different people and the rings</p> <p>Minimise contact of rings with other surfaces to avoid contamination</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Who will have the rings (Best Person)?</p> <p>After initial cleaning prior to the ceremony, the rings should be kept in a solid receptacle (such as a box) until required. Ideally ring bearer/ celebrant shall open the box and the couple will remove the rings themselves.</p> <p>The ring bearer/celebrant and couple should maintain social distancing as much as possible at this moment.</p>
<p>Mini-ceremonies/ Unity Ceremonies etc. (includes all those features that Celebrants include)</p>	<p>These will need to be considered individually for each ceremony</p>	<p>Low - for most to High - for those where all guests touch an item or group items together.</p>	<p>Minimise contact of guests with each other and other items. This may mean reconsidering ceremonies that involve all guests touching an item or placing individual items together, such as ring warming and hand fasting.</p> <p>Avoid consumption of food and drink during the ceremony, such as cake and ale and wine/quaich ceremonies</p> <p>During ceremony planning, the celebrant must work creatively with the couple to explore possible alternatives which adhere to social distancing guidelines</p>

<p>Signing ceremonial certificate</p>	<p>Close proximity of couple and witnesses</p> <p>Shared pen</p> <p>Traditional photo moment meaning that the people involved are closer together for longer than necessary</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Encourage the couple to have witnesses from their bubble or no witnesses at all</p> <p>Consider no signing of ceremonial certificate, or use separate pens for witnesses. Alternatively wipe the pen with sanitiser before, between and after use. Celebrant should have pre-signed the certificate before the ceremony.</p> <p>Rather than official photos during the ceremony, ask the couple and photographer about a staged signing after the ceremony when social distancing can be maintained whilst photos carefully orchestrated.</p>
---------------------------------------	---	---------------	--

Closing the Ceremony	Announcement/ Introduction of Couple and/or First Kiss Exit of wedding party	Medium	<p>This is normally the time of cheering. Encourage applause instead.</p> <p>After couple have left ceremony area, ensure there is an organised exit.</p> <p>Consider exiting from the back of the room, rather than the usual exit from the front back down the aisle. This will mean less people are passing one another.</p> <p>The wedding party in this case would leave last.</p> <p>Each bubble to leave their seating to go to designated area when requested.</p> <p>Celebrant to leave when safe to do so.</p>
----------------------	---	--------	--

Other rows to be added as necessary for ALL aspects of the ceremony



Supporting Government track and trace – customer registration for hospitality businesses (England)

Core Principles

- The Government is asking consumers, the general public and hospitality and tourism businesses to help it in the efforts to stamp out further COVID infections and localised outbreaks by providing basic information to be used as part of its contact tracing regime
- Although this will require additional efforts and activity on the part of managers and staff, it is a crucial part of ensuring that you can continue to trade in the event of a spike in infections following reopening and will be a vital part of the national effort to eradicate the disease and allow further relaxation in the absence of a vaccine. It is a critical part of our help to support the NHS and avoid a second lock down
- The objective is to capture basic information on who is on the premises or in the site for any length of time so that should a person test positive for COVID, contact tracers can rapidly identify any interactions they had with others and hopefully break the chain of infection
- The more granular the detail collected, the more effective the contact tracing can be and crucially the easier it will be to rule out more of your staff and customers from infection.
- This is not mandatory, but all businesses and customers are strongly encouraged to participate.

Who and what do I record?

- The objective is to get sufficient information on customers and staff to allow local NHS and public health professionals to follow up with them about anyone they may have come into contact with
- This does not mean you need to get information on every single customer – as a broad rule of thumb:
 - Those eating or drinking in the premises or in the gardens or outdoor tables provided by the premises you need to take a name and number
 - You only need one contact name and number for each group i.e. the person making the booking or reservation in advance, or making the purchase
 - If it is a genuine take away for consumption off the premises, you don't need to track and trace
- Ideally, you should also get a broad indication of the time they were on the premises e.g. time booking (or sitting) started, how long a table was booked for and an indication of departure or dwell time by shift or session if they are not booked in for a specific time slot (estimates may be used)
- You also need to keep information on staff working on site, including arrival and departure and ideally which part of the premises they are working in – restricting work areas will minimise disruption if there is an infection as you will be able to rapidly eliminate staff members who have only worked in certain places
- If you are able to identify which customers sat at which tables that will also be a helpful piece of information which could be used to eliminate customers and staff from risk profiles
- You are free to decide how best to capture and record this information – there are no mandatory requirements about how collection is carried out
- Information should be recorded on contractors working on site but not for those carrying out deliveries or pick-ups (including third party delivery couriers).

How do I record this?

- Information can be collected through a variety of means you do not have to take details as everyone arrives at the venue
- Name and number can be taken in advance remotely through a telephone booking, an online reservation, or at point of entry or at point of sale – this is your choice
- Information can be captured digitally and automatically through booking, ordering, payment or check in apps or through automatic wi-fi to indicate dwell time or any combination of these - you may use multiple sources of existing data in order to gather the necessary info
- Manual collection on pen and paper is also permitted, though you may want to consider the hygiene consequences involved with shared pens, etc, as well as data protection rules that do not allow other customers to see private information
- If a customer refuses to provide their details, then they do not have to provide it and you can allow service. However, for the safety of staff and customers, you may wish to refuse service. If you do permit service and have collected data for a booking you need to exclude this data from your track and trace dataset
- There is no requirement to verify the data collected but you should encourage accurate reporting.

What do I need to do then?

- You will be required to store the data for 21 days
- The data will only be needed if there are outbreaks or chains of infection involving people visiting or working on your premises – you do not need to do anything else with the data
- You will then be contacted by local public health departments or NHS contact tracers and asked to provide as much information as possible about those on site at given times and places who may have interacted with the customer or staff member who has tested positive
- Remember, you are looking to identify those who have been in sustained contact with an infected person – closer than 1m for 1 minute or 2m for 15 minutes – so if you can identify where the person sat or worked you may be able to eliminate members of your team and customers from contact tracing.

What about GDPR?

- [Guidance](#) is available from the Information Commissioners' Office
- If you are already capturing data from customers through online booking, reservations, wi-fi or app usage then you will be automatically allowed to share this on request with the NHS or local public health team (unless they have opted out of data provision)
- You do not need to have individual consent in respect of COVID, but it would be sensible to include the NHS standard form of words and information request about track and trace data consent on your website, at point of sale and when capturing data manually
- Government is producing a standard poster outlining the purpose of collecting the data – we strongly advise that this is displayed in your premises or online
- You only need to capture name and contact number for COVID purposes, but you are able to capture additional information if you have the necessary permissions, but you do not have the right to share that additional data with anyone else
- If you are collecting data only for COVID 19 purposes, then you should ensure that you have individual consent – people have the right to refuse – and if it is solely held for that purpose then it must be destroyed after 21 days
- If you collect and have permission for the capture and use of other personal data, then you do not need to destroy this.

Track and Trace Form

Event

Date

	Name	Phone Number	Time Arrived	Time Departed
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				
21				
22				
23				
24				

25				
26				
27				
28				
29				
30				