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Guidance

# COVID-19: Guidance for small marriages and civil partnerships

Guidance for people planning to get married or form a civil partnership in England.

Published 29 June 2020

Last updated 4 December 2020 — see all updates

From:

Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government  
(<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-housing-communities-and-local-government>) and  
Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy  
(<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-business-energy-and-industrial-strategy>)

Applies to:

England

## Documents

**COVID-19: Guidance for small marriages and civil partnerships**  
(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-small-marriages-and-civil-partnerships/covid-19-guidance-for-small-marriages-and-civil-partnerships>)

HTML

**COVID-19: Guidance for wedding and civil partnership receptions and celebrations** (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-small-marriages-and-civil-partnerships/covid-19-guidance-for-wedding-and-civil-partnership-receptions-and-celebrations>)

HTML

## Details

This guidance is designed to help people planning to get married or form a civil partnership in England, and assist venues to prepare for small ceremonies, receptions and celebrations to take place.

This guidance is of a general nature and should be treated as a guide. In the event of any conflict between any applicable legislation (including the health and safety legislation) and this guidance, the applicable legislation shall prevail.

This guidance is only applicable in England. For guidance in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland, please refer to guidance from the relevant national governments.

This guidance is national guidance that applies across England. Please consider the local restriction tiers in place when reading and implementing this guidance. For further information, please see the local restrictions tiers (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-restriction-tiers-what-you-need-to-know>) page.

Published 29 June 2020

Last updated 4 December 2020 + show all updates

1. 4 December 2020

Guidance for receptions and celebrations updated to reflect local restriction tiers. In Tier 1 and 2, up to 15 people may attend receptions and celebrations, with other restrictions applying. In Tier 3, receptions and celebrations are not permitted to take place.

2. 2 December 2020

Updated COVID-19: Guidance for small marriages and civil partnerships, to reflect introduction of local tier restrictions.

3. 6 November 2020

Guidance updated following national restrictions from 5 November under which wedding and civil partnership receptions and celebrations are not permitted to take place.

4. 19 October 2020

Guidance updated to reflect the launch of Local COVID Alert Levels.

5. 14 October 2020

Guidance updated to incorporate changes in regulations, as they affect weddings and civil partnerships, announced by the Prime Minister on 12 October 2020.

6. 7 October 2020

Updated guidance on wedding and civil partnership receptions and celebrations. Changes cover the rules on face coverings, distance between tables, singing in groups of more than 6, dancing, music volume and enforcement.

7. 26 September 2020

Updated guidance on number of guests allowed, legal requirements for businesses to be closed between 10pm and 5am and supporting staff to self-isolate, mandatory face coverings for staff, mandatory table service at licenced venues, new NHS Test and Trace QR code and guests prohibited from joining in with performances.

8. 24 September 2020

Guidance updated to incorporate changes in regulations, as they affect marriages and civil partnerships, announced by the Prime Minister on 22 September 2020.

9. 11 September 2020

Updated guidance on maintaining social distancing between different households and mandatory test and trace requirements.

10. 14 August 2020

Updated to take account of changes in guidance on singing and playing brass and wind instruments in front of an audience and on holding small wedding receptions.

11. 13 August 2020

Added guidance on receptions and celebrations.

12. 4 August 2020

Amended in line with the Prime Minister's statement on 31 July.

13. 3 August 2020

Updated to reflect additional requirements on face coverings. Amendments to the roadmap for wedding receptions.

14. 17 July 2020

Amended to show that from 1 August, small wedding receptions will be able to take place - this means sit-down meals for no more than 30 people, subject to COVID-19 Secure guidance.

15. 4 July 2020

Guidance updated.

16. 29 June 2020

First published.

## Brexit transition

25 days to go

Check you're ready for 2021

(<https://www.gov.uk/transition>)

## Related content

- COVID-19: guidance for the safe use of places of worship and special religious services and gatherings during the pandemic (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship-during-the-pandemic-from-4-july>)
- Marriage and civil partnership in England and Wales (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/marriage-and-civil-partnership-in-england-and-wales>)
- COVID-19: Guidance for the safe use of multi-purpose community facilities (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-multi-purpose-community-facilities>)
- Update on new social distancing rules (<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/update-on-new-social-distancing-rules>)
- COVID-19: guidance for arranging or attending a funeral during the coronavirus pandemic (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-managing-a-funeral-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic>)

## Explore the topic

- Marriage, civil partnership and divorce (<https://www.gov.uk/life-circumstances/marriage-divorce>)
- Coronavirus (COVID-19) (<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus-taxon>)