

SAIF's Coronavirus (Covid-19) update 30.07.21



Wales

Fully vaccinated people self-isolation rules update

As of 7th August in Wales, people who have received both doses of a coronavirus vaccine will no longer have to self-isolate after coming into close contact with someone who has tested positive, providing 14 days have elapsed since their second dose. Remaining in place will be the recommendation that close contacts take a PCR test on day two and day eight following their exposure to the virus. Further details can be found [here](#).

Guidance on funerals updated

The Welsh Government has today issued updated [guidance](#) affecting funerals in Wales. As S A I F members will be aware, there are no limits on the number of people who can attend a funeral service. Instead, the number of mourners is subject to how many people are able to fit in the building whilst maintaining two metres' physical distancing. The same rule applies to wakes held on regulated premises. However, wakes held on private premises must adhere to the following: indoors, six people (not including children under 11) from the household or extended household; outdoors, no limit.

People organising funerals on regulated premises (such as a funeral home) should take the following steps:

Step 1: undertake an assessment of the risk of exposure to coronavirus at the premises.

Step 2: provide information to those entering or working at the premises about how to minimise the risk of exposure to coronavirus.

Step 3: take all reasonable measures to ensure that a distance of two metres is maintained between persons on the premises, except between the members of a group, comprising of no more than six persons or members of the same household at Alert Level 1 and 2, or at Alert Levels

3 and 4, comprising of members of the same household.

Step 4: take reasonable measures to mitigate the risk of exposure to coronavirus that arises where persons gather in close proximity to each other. The measures may include seeking to prevent persons experiencing symptoms of Covid-19 from entering the premises, ensuring that people gather outdoors instead of indoors where it is practicable to do so, limiting close face-to-face interaction, seeking to ensure that the premises are well ventilated, and maintaining good hygiene. They may also include measures such as not carrying on certain activities and collecting contact information from persons at the premises.

SAIF is seeking clarification from the Welsh Government over where responsibility for carrying out risk assessments lies in various funeral and wake scenarios, particularly where a gathering is on private unregulated premises, and will update members as soon as information becomes available.

SAIF understands that the above guidance is interim and is informed that the Welsh Government is due to release new 'core guidance' documents featuring action cards for a range of sectors, including the funeral profession, in the coming weeks. Please monitor emails from SAIF for updates.

Northern Ireland

Updated guidance for funerals

Following the NI Executive decision on 26th July 2021 to further ease some restrictions from 27th July, SAIF members are advised of amendments to [guidance affecting funerals](#). The changes relate to the number of households permitted to gather indoors at a private dwelling and the mandatory wearing of face coverings in a place of worship.

The amended regulations permit 10 people (not including children aged 12 or under) from no more than three households; or if one household has 10 people, the maximum is increased to 15 people (not including children aged 12 or under) from no more than three households to gather indoors at a private dwelling.

Face coverings are now mandatory when entering and leaving a place of worship for a funeral service and it is strongly recommended that they are worn for the duration of the service, particularly when singing or moving around the premises..

Please note that funeral services are not yet permitted from private dwellings and should only take place in places of worship, funeral homes, the City of Belfast Crematorium or at the burial ground.

All UK nations

Updated PPE regulations: transparent face masks

The Cabinet Office and Department of Health & Social Care have issued the following update with regard to transparent face masks: the transparent area shall comply with BS EN 166:2002, section 7.3.2 (resistance to fogging of oculars (misting up)). When examined by normal or corrected to normal vision, the transparent area shall allow the wearer's lips, mouth and areas of the face to be visible to others, as required for lip reading or other facial visibility requirements.

England

SAIF members urged to complete self-isolation survey

SAIF wishes to impress on the Cabinet Office its significant concerns with regard to self-isolation requirements for funeral directors. We have designed a [short survey](#) which takes only a couple of minutes to complete and would be very grateful if you could do so by 10.00 am on Monday 2nd August.

We will feed the results back to the Cabinet Office with our serious concerns about the complex method they have devised for Funeral Directors to apply for exemption. The more members who respond, the more impact we can have. Many thanks for your support. Take the survey [here](#).

SAIF Business Centre
National Society of Allied and Independent Funeral Directors (SAIF)
www.saif.org.uk Tel: 01279 726777 0345 230 6777

