

SAIF's Coronavirus (Covid-19) update 02.12.21



England

Exemption to leave self-isolation to attend a funeral

Mourners in England who test positive for the Omicron variant of Covid-19 can still leave self-isolation to attend a funeral, updated [guidance](#) confirms today. The exemption also applies to any household members who are having to self-isolate due to close contact with the person who has tested positive. Importantly, this exemption only applies to funeral services and not commemorative events, such as wakes or ashes scatterings.

However, SAI F recommends that members advise clients to take lateral flow tests prior to attending a funeral service and try to facilitate streaming services for people who have tested positive to minimise the risk of spreading the virus.

SAIF is awaiting new guidance for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and will update members accordingly.

Face coverings in funeral homes

In a meeting today with the Cabinet Office, it was confirmed that funeral homes are classed as retail premises, therefore face coverings should be worn in indoor settings. SAI F has pressed for clarification on whether this rule applies in

arrangement meetings and viewings, as these situations were exempted under previous restrictions earlier this year. For the moment, we urge members to use their common sense and call upon experience gained during previous periods of high community transmission, and put in place mitigations such as screens, hand sanitiser and appointment-only access to premises etc.

All UK nations

Face coverings in limousines

Following the reintroduction of the requirement to wear face coverings in taxis and private hire vehicles in England on Tuesday this week, the UK Government has issued updated guidance that operators in England should observe. It includes asking passengers if they have tested positive for Covid-19 in the past 10 days and whether they are experiencing any symptoms. There is also advice around cleaning parts of the vehicle that passengers have touched after each journey and conducting risk assessments. Full details can be found [here](#).

SAIF members in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are subject to similar rules on face coverings, which were already in place. Information about these rules can be found here: [Scotland](#), [Wales](#), [Northern Ireland](#). SAIF members who had fitted plastic screens in vehicles should continue using these devices or reinstall them if they haven't already done so.

Contact tracing for employees and Omicron

Rules on self-isolation have been updated following the emergence of the Omicron variant of Covid-19. Previously, anyone who had come into contact with a positive Covid-19 person was not required to self-isolate if they had been fully vaccinated or were aged under 18 years and six months (18 years and four months in Scotland, and 18 years in Wales and Northern Ireland). Close contacts

were also advised to take PCR tests.

Now, anyone who comes into contact with an Omicron positive case is required to self-isolate for 10 days, regardless of age or vaccination status (see top story for mourner exemption rules). Full details for workers in England can be found [here](#). SAIF is still awaiting guidance to be updated for other UK nations, however, associated announcements can be found here on [Scotland](#), and [Wales](#).

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