

Interpretation of the 'Wedding and Civil Partnership Ceremonies, Receptions and Celebrations' guidance issued 18.06.21

Here is the summary of the guidance and it's application to The Wellbeing Farm

**Main Points:** Reasonable steps and personal responsibility is at the core of the guidance.

Capacity

*From 21 June, there will no longer be a maximum number cap for attendees set out in law. The number of attendees at weddings, civil partnerships and receptions will be determined by how many people the venue or space can safely accommodate with social distancing measures in place and based on the Covid-19 risk assessment.*

**TWF Response:**

These are the capacity and dimensions of the Barn confirmed by Licensing:

At present there is a maximum of **190 Covers** in the main Barn Area, this has been accepted by Licensing and the Fire Safety Department, with a maximum Occupancy of **300** people in the Barn Area. (*Occupancy logic*)

Total number of covers **190 (seating) & 300 (standing)**

**Approved Document B – Table 4**

The approximate floor area within the barn for functions / live music is as follows –

Floor area (main area = 19.5 x 8.5 = 165m<sup>2</sup>) (bar area = 7 x 5 = 35m<sup>2</sup>) Total floor area = **200m<sup>2</sup>**

Floor space factor 0.5 = **400 persons**

**Exit Width –**

Front Door 1 = 1170mm = **244 persons**

Front Door 2 = 1120mm = **234 persons**

Side Door = 780mm = **60 persons**

Back Door = 770mm = **60 persons**

Total exit door width will allow **598 persons**, however floor space will allow **400**, in addition to this in a fire situation the largest door will be lost which is Front Door 1 (**244**) agreement with Management, Licensing and Fire Safety the number below has been agreed.

The largest exit will be lost in a fire situation – *which is Front Door 1 = 244.*

**598 – 244 = 354**

Maximum Occupancy for the Public House = **300 PERSONS**

**Caviat**

*(if 300 persons is exceeded, ensure that fire safety provision is not effected, ensure all firefighting equipment is available and not covered as well as all the final exits being available with nothing compromising the escape routes)*

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Using this website, which calculates social distancing numbers:

<https://venuesearch.ie/capacity-calculator/>

If you take just the dimensions of the Barn (excluding bar area) = 1776 square meters. 3 feet = approx. one metre

One metre social distancing (which is allowed for the following reasons):

- Good ventilation
- High ceilings
- Access to outside space
- Sanitisation and cleaning
- Couples to get all guests and suppliers to undertake lateral flow testing for all guests (or proof of vaccination) (see below)

Therefore here are the numbers we can accommodate approximately:

- **150 guests standing**
- **117 guests seated**

These figures INCLUDE children but exclude staff and suppliers.

The screenshot shows the VenueSearch website's capacity calculator. The header includes navigation links: Home, Search & Filter, Venue / Event Type, Popular Locations, Blog, Contact, Sign In, and Add A Venue. The main content area features three columns for different calculation methods: Metres Squared, Standing Capacity, and Seated Capacity. Each column has an icon, a description, and a form with input fields and results.

Metres Squared	Standing Capacity	Seated Capacity
<p>Calculate how many guests your venue can hold by entering either the space in square metreage, the venue's normal standing (max.) capacity or the venue's normal seated capacity. We'll show you the result with 2 metre social distancing measures in place and the massive difference on capacity if the restriction is reduced to 1 metre.</p>		
<p><b>Metres Squared</b></p> <p>If you know your venue's space in metres squared enter it here to calculate your venue's max. capacities.</p>	<p><b>Standing Capacity</b></p> <p>Your venue's Fire &amp; Safety Regulated max. standing occupancy. Enter pre-covid numbers.</p>	<p><b>Seated Capacity</b></p> <p>Venues that were already primarily seated spaces such as restaurants please enter your pre-covid capacity.</p>
<p>Space In Square Metres</p> <input type="text" value="165"/>	<p>Normal Numbers Standing</p> <input type="text" value="300"/>	<p>Normal Numbers Seated</p> <input type="text" value="180"/>
<p><b>Standard (Pre-Covid) Capacity:</b></p> <p>Standing: 330 guests or Seated 165 guests</p>	<p><b>2 Metre Social Distancing Capacity:</b></p> <p>Standing: 38 guests</p>	<p><b>2 Metre Social Distancing Capacity:</b></p> <p>Seated: 61</p>
<p><b>2 Metre Social Distancing Capacity:</b></p> <p>Standing: 41 guests or Seated: 56 guests</p>	<p><b>1 Metre Social Distancing Capacity:</b></p> <p>Standing: 150 guests</p>	<p><b>1 Metre Social Distancing Capacity:</b></p> <p>Seated: 117</p>
<p><b>1 Metre Social Distancing Capacity:</b></p> <p>Standing: 165 guests or Seated: 107 guests</p>		

## Lateral Flow Testing

If either member of the couple has symptoms of Covid-19, the ceremony should not go ahead.

All guests or those involved in the ceremony or reception who have symptoms of Covid-19 should not attend.

Although not a legal requirement, the guidance emphasises **personal responsibility**

The more we read the guidance (I've read it 4 times now), the more I feel we really need to work in partnership with you to make your wedding the best it can possibly be under the circumstances.

I am having to update our risk assessment for the Council and I am putting in there the fact that 'we are working with couples who have booked their wedding with us, to use lateral-flow tests to pre-screen their guests and suppliers and we will be pre-screening our staff'.

I appreciate this is not a legal requirement, but the guidance emphasises personal responsibility by the couple for the behaviour of their guests.

I hope you can appreciate that I have to do everything I can to protect the venue's reputation and for the safety of our staff.

It's all very well but when alcohol is involved, in our experience the best laid plans can go astray (including personal responsibility), so we would really appreciate it if you could be arranging for all your guests and suppliers to have a lateral flow test within 48 hours of your wedding.

There are three ways you can do this:

(1) You provide us with a guest and supplier list in advance of your wedding and we will have a check in list at the gate to confirm arrival from your guest / supplier list where we will ask your guests for proof of testing, but there is a risk that we can't have someone coming in who doesn't have a test result - we will allow the guest / supplier to be tested on the day in our bottom carpark while we wait for the result.

OR

(2) An alternative is to have two boxes for guests and suppliers on arrival to tick:

Double vax

Negative LFT in last 48 hours

That then puts the responsibility on your guests and suppliers to do the right thing and declare they've been vaccinated or had a test ....

OR

(3) You use the FREE Guides for Brides Track and Trace system  
<https://www.guidesforbrides.co.uk/wedding/track-and-trace/>

**This is our preferred option and we have purchased this for all wedding couples to use**

It provides a simple virtual check in for your guests and suppliers. It checks that they are symptom-free and asks them to let you know if they develop symptoms, so you can email all who attended, quickly, safely and securely.

For me, option 3 seems the best but it's up to you....

We really don't want to be like the Covid police at your weddings and we don't want your guests and yourself to have this Covid cloud of fear ... My thinking is if we followed the process adopted by the live event pilots and Wembley Stadium (i.e. lateral flow testing in advance), then everyone can be more relaxed and comfortable on their wedding day with one metre social distancing and less restrictions....

I wish there was another way round this but the guidance makes it clear, the venue **MUST** enforce the guidance and **MUST** report any guests who are breaking the rules - the last thing I want is the police turning up and stopping any weddings, so if we can work together to make your wedding as safe as possible, it will be in both our interests....

**Solution: Live streaming for guests isolating or vulnerable.**

### **Face Coverings**

Joanne Miller (15.06.21) - Blackburn with Darwen Registrar:

Guidance on the content of the ceremony will also change from 21 June; ceremonies will no longer need to be restricted to those elements to ensure the marriage or civil partnership is valid in law but must be conducted in a 'reasonable time' which introduces some flexibility for the content of the ceremony. We will discuss the ceremony content with the couple on an individual basis.

There is no change to social distancing rules or face covering guidance, which must continue to be worn by the guests inside including during the ceremony.

Face coverings are required by law to be worn in many indoor settings. Attendees and staff at a wedding ceremony or reception must wear a face covering (except when eating or drinking) unless exempt.

The couple don't need to wear a face covering, neither do the Registrars. All guests must wear face coverings.

You don't need to wear face coverings outdoors at a ceremony or reception.

Employers must not, by law, prevent their staff or any other person present from wearing a face covering where they are required to do so.

Sanitiser must be provided at convenient points throughout the venue and encourage attendees to use it.

### **Solutions:**

- visors are more attractive
- live streaming for those guests who have Covid-19 symptoms
- All guests and couple to be told that we **WILL** be keeping Barn doors open so they will need to bring a cardigan wrap etc. in case of cold weather as we will be unable to close the doors

## Protecting the Vulnerable

We can offer live streaming or we will have in place a **yellow wrist band scheme** which will enable guests and staff to identify those guests and members of staff who are clinically vulnerable so extra distanced can be maintained.



We can also accommodate clinically vulnerable guests in the Wheatsheaf Bar.

## Facilities

The guidance allows outdoor playgrounds to open where venue managers risk assess that it's safe to do so and ensure facilities are cleaned regularly. Any indoor shared facilities, soft furnishings or items which are hard to clean, should be removed or closed.

Allowed	Not allowed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Games (crazy golf, go carts, ride-on's) but sanitiser must be available</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Games (tug of war)</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Guest books, camera stations - minimise but have hand sanitisation</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Llama Boudoir (photo booth props)</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Table plans - no rule of 6 (there is nothing in the guidance about 6 per table). <b>We will have to introduce table numbers for ALL tables (inside and outside) for the purpose of ordering and serving drinks to tables.</b></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Fire pit blankets</li><li>Marshmallows????</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Sweet cart - sweets must be wrapped in bags / packets and placed on each table place.</li></ul>

## Activities

Allowed	Not Allowed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Entertainment - only up to 6 people</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Communal singing</li></ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>allowed to perform in a band etc.</li> <li>Magicians etc. welcome</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Background music - at a level which doesn't encourage shouting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dancing is 'advised against' except for couples first dance</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cake cutting and cheese wedding cake (although the cake / cheese will be served by staff) to the tables.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stand up drink receptions (indoor or outdoor)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Games (although must have hand sanitisers)</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Speeches - use PA system</li> </ul>	

### **Food and Drink**

- All food and drink (including non-alcoholic drinks) must be ordered, served and consumed by the customer while seated at a table. This includes canapes and evening food.
- No bar service - guests to remain seated - including outside
- Customers must remain seated while consuming food and drink on the premises. Even in outdoor settings.
- Sadly we cannot served drinks at any bar and we can't use the Brew Station, Sweet Cart or Horse Trailer Bar.

### **Other**

- You're permitted to travel to attend a marriage or reception in accordance with the legislation in England.
- You are able to leave England and travel to other parts of the UK (or abroad) to attend a wedding.
- Covid risk assessment has been updated to reflect these post 21.06.21 changes.

We have provided a presentation to all couples which can be found on the Secret Facebook Page and slides can be provided.