**Citizenship ceremony guidance for attendees**

On 14 July UKVI advisedLocal Authorities that they can reintroduce citizenship ceremonies where they can do so safely in accordance with health and safety guidance.

Advice was also that the ceremony offering should be revised in order to keep ceremonies as short as possible to reduce the risk of infection.

**Rules to be observed when attending at a Citizenship Ceremony**

* Social distancing as directed by council staff and the registrar must be observed.
* All attendees will sanitize their hands upon entry
* All attendees should adhere to social distancing of at least 2 metres between party members and council staff.
* The ceremony will be conducted in accordance with government guidelines i.e. the ceremony will be reduced in order to keep the ceremony as short as possible. Ceremonies will be restricted to saying the oath or affirmation, the issue of citizenship certificates and the playing of the National Anthem
* The number of attendees will be restricted to 5
* No guests will be allowed
* To reduce the time of the ceremony there will be no dignitaries in attendance, no music, photographs, presentation of gifts or refreshments.
* At the conclusion of the ceremony the party will leave the building as quickly as possible.
* If anyone becomes unwell with symptoms of COVID-19 they should go home and be advised to follow the stay at home guidance. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>
* If any attendee is exhibiting symptoms of Covid 19 upon arrival the whole party will be asked to leave, and the ceremony will be re-scheduled

As of 8 August 2020, it is mandatory for those observing a wedding or civil partnership ceremony to wear a face covering. There are valid exemptions including the bride and groom/civil partners, children under the age of 11 and those who cannot put on, wear or remove a face covering because of a physical or mental illness or impairment, or disability. Those officiating at a ceremony are also excluded.

**Test and Trace**

**All persons attending a ceremony are asked to support the national NHS Test and Trace Service. This will help to contain outbreaks of Covid 19 before they occur, prevent the return of lockdown measures, help to protect the public and save lives.**

**The Register Office asks that attendees cooperate in providing their contact details if requested.**