



## 1. Aim of this guidance

Marriage and civil partnership ceremonies will take place in Jersey from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020. These ceremonies will be subject to public health measures due to COVID-19.

This guidance will help you to plan your ceremony to ensure that it complies with public health measures.

*These public health measures are in place to keep you, your guests and celebrants safe during the period of COVID-19.*

This guidance is subject to change in line with advice from the Medical Officer for Health. You should check [www.gov.je](http://www.gov.je) for the latest public health guidance.

## 2. Who does this guidance apply to?

This guidance applies to:

- all couples who are still planning to marry or hold a civil partnership in Jersey during the period of COVID-19. It is not currently possible to state how long the period of COVID-19 will last.
- legal marriage ceremonies (whether they are in a church or a civil venue) and to all civil partnership ceremonies.
- both indoor and outdoor venues.
- any person present at a marriage or civil partnership ceremony.

This guidance does not apply to wedding receptions/parties - there are separate strict public health measures in place for these events. Public health guidance on gatherings is available on [www.gov.je](http://www.gov.je)

## 3. Ceremony venues

Wedding ceremony venues must comply with public health guidance.

This will include venues such as hotels, places of worship, heritage sites and other hospitality venues.

It will be their responsibility to ensure that each room or area being used for a ceremony complies with public health guidance.

If your wedding ceremony is taking place at a private venue such as someone's home, garden or field, it will be the owner and Responsible Person's role to ensure that public health guidance is complied with.



#### **4. Marriage celebrants – religious officials and Authorised Civil Celebrants**

The person responsible for conducting your ceremony has a legal duty to make sure that the ceremony complies with public health guidance.

If your ceremony does not comply with public health guidance they are under a duty to halt or delay the ceremony in order to take steps to make sure the ceremony is compliant.

*Therefore, if physical distancing requirements are not adhered to or the maximum attendance number is exceeded, the celebrant must refuse to conduct the ceremony until these measures are complied with.*

#### **5. New applications for approved locations**

During the COVID period, applications for approval of marriage locations are being limited.

You can apply to get married in your own home or the home of someone you know (including the garden).

You can apply and pay for the location to be approved for a single ceremony on [www.gov.je/registrar](http://www.gov.je/registrar)

You must allow at least 14 days for your application to be processed. The inspection of the location will be carried out by a pre-arranged digital video meeting/tour. The application and location must satisfy the requirements of the law relating to approval of locations for marriage.

Applications for any other marriage locations are not currently being accepted. If the location is not already approved for marriage and is not a domestic property, it will not be possible to get married there.

A full list of locations which are already approved is available on [www.gov.je/registrar](http://www.gov.je/registrar)

As the Office of the Superintendent Registrar is currently closed to the public, a temporary Register Office has been created at the North Telephone Exchange, Le Chemin de Herupe, St John where small ceremonies can take place. Email [weddings@gov.je](mailto:weddings@gov.je) for more information.

#### **6. Maximum number of attendees at a ceremony & physical distancing requirements**

The number of people who can attend your ceremony will be restricted by physical distancing requirements and by a maximum number of attendees who are permitted to be at your ceremony.

Every person attending a ceremony must comply with physical distancing rules in place on the day of the ceremony.



Currently, a physical distance of 2 metres must be maintained between anyone who is not from the same household. An exception to this is where the couple getting married are living in different households at the time of their ceremony.

At this time, the maximum number of people who can attend a wedding ceremony is 40 persons.

This will include guests, the celebrant/religious official, photographer or anyone else in the room/area.

*The size of the room or area where your ceremony is taking place will therefore dictate how many people can safely be present within physical distancing rules.*

Your venue will advise you of the number of people that can be in the room or area where your ceremony is taking place.

If you are marrying in a private venue, the owner of the venue must make this assessment.

## **7. Public health requirements at the ceremony**

All aspects of the ceremony must comply with public health requirements.

In particular:

- Attendance register

Every person attending a ceremony will be asked to provide their name and contact details in an Attendance Register. This will allow contact tracing if it is later discovered that one or more attendees had COVID-19.

It is the venue's responsibility to keep this record of attendance, or if you are marrying at a private venue it is the owner's responsibility.

- Arrival/departure of guests

In line with public venues, ceremonies taking place in private venues must coordinate guests to enter and exit the location in a controlled way and not to congregate in any one area or areas.

- Orders of service

Handing out of orders of service is not in line with public health guidance and therefore should not take place.

Orders of service should be made available to your guests in digital format. If this is not possible, paper copies should be available on chairs or in a pile at the entrance and safely disposed of after the ceremony.

- Procession of the bride/groom and bridesmaids/groomsmen

Only persons from the same household can be within 2 metres of one another.



The bride and any person walking with the bride/groom - including bridesmaids/groomsmen and (if relevant) the person giving the bride/groom away - must be 2 metres away from anyone else not in their household.

- Exchange of rings

Rings should be held and handled only by the couple. They should not be handed to the couple or handled by any other person at the ceremony.

- Live music and performance

Singing, in addition to woodwind and brass music, is strongly discouraged both outdoors and indoors because of the very high risk of dispersing droplets and therefore of spreading infection.

This is particularly important in indoor settings where older members or vulnerable guests are present because of their increased risks from COVID-19.

- Signing the legal documentation

Your celebrant/religious official will ensure that the pen is wiped down after each person has used it.

*-End-*