

Dear Clergy, Lay Readers, Vestry Secretaries and Diocesan Secretaries

We issued an update from the Advisory Group this morning. Shortly after doing so, we received unexpected notification from the Government about a small, but nevertheless significant, change to the rules relating to weddings, which take effect from midnight tonight (and therefore potentially affect any weddings taking place tomorrow).

The requirement for physical distancing at weddings is being altered so that “a party to the marriage” (e.g. the bride) may be accompanied down the aisle by one other person (such as a parent) who is not in the same household or extended household without having to be physically distanced from that accompanier.

Also, the existing exemption which allows a party to the marriage not to wear a face covering for the duration of the ceremony is amended so that such a person (e.g. the bride) does not have to wear a face covering whilst being accompanied down the aisle, even if physical distancing is not observed. There is no change to the requirement for guests to wear face coverings during the ceremony (unless they are exempt for other reasons). That means that the person accompanying the party to the marriage down the aisle still needs to wear a face covering when they are doing that (unless they themselves are exempt for other reasons).

Kind regards

Donald Walker
Director of Communications
Scottish Episcopal Church
07736 042 850