

Covid-19 – Attending St John’s Chambers in person.

St Johns’ Chambers, continues to adhere to the latest guidelines as at 14 June 2021, as Chambers remains open for pre-approved and essential face to face meetings, with reduced admin support.

1. GUIDANCE

We’re following the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy’s guidance on social distancing for employers who have people in their offices or onsite, which can be accessed here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19>.

Where possible everyone should maintain a 2 metre distance, because the risk of transmission is small at this distance.

If you cannot keep a 2 metre distance, reduce the risk to yourself and others by maintaining a 1 metre distance where possible, and taking suitable precautions

2. TRAVEL

Travel should only be undertaken if you must visit or work at Chambers

All members, staff, pupils, clients and contractors are reminded to refer to <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers#travel-safely-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak> for the latest updates on travel guidance.

In particular, everyone should help to control coronavirus and travel safely by walking and cycling, if you can. Where this is not possible, use public transport or drive.

1. checking your local COVID alert level before travel
2. observing social contact rules as applicable to your local COVID alert level
3. keeping your distance when you travel, where possible
4. washing or sanitising your hands regularly
5. avoiding the busiest routes, as well as busy times like the rush hour
6. downloading the NHS COVID-19 app before you travel, if possible, and checking in where you see official NHS COVID-19 QR code posters

You should not travel at all if you:

1. are experiencing any coronavirus symptoms
2. are self-isolating as a result of coronavirus symptoms or sharing a household or support bubble with somebody with symptoms
3. are clinically extremely vulnerable and live in an area where additional public health measures mean you have been advised to resume shielding
4. have been told by the NHS Test and Trace service to self-isolate – find out how NHS Test and Trace works

5. if you have symptoms of coronavirus, however mild, you should self-isolate and follow NHS guidelines at all times.

3. LOCAL COVID ALERT LEVELS

There is now a system of local COVID alert levels in England. If you live, work, volunteer or travel to from or within an area that is part of a medium (tier 1), high (tier 2) or very high (tier 3) local COVID alert level, there are additional restrictions which apply to you.

4. CHAMBERS ARRANGEMENTS AND FACILITIES

At St John's Chambers, we are continually reviewing and monitoring our arrangements for social distancing.

We have put in place arrangements to help you maintain a 2m distance including:

1. Advising you to leave empty seats between you and other people in the waiting area.
2. Restricting the number of people using the toilets/washrooms at any given point in time. You can help by keeping a 2m distance if there is a queue.
3. Advising when you can enter or leave conference rooms, to avoid cross-traffic in the doors and to restrict the number of people in the meeting area at any point in time.
4. Reminding you to keep a 2m distance, for instance going in and out of conference rooms.
5. Please follow and adhere to all 101 Victoria Street security procedures as dictated by the Landlord, and remember to keep a 2m distance from other people wherever possible.
6. We have marked out 2m spacing
7. We have installed sneeze screens in reception
8. Anti-bacterial hand gel is installed at all ingress and egress points
9. All external parties attending Chambers must sign in for track and trace
10. Chambers has registered with the NHS Covid-19 app for visitors to scan and sign in.
11. Our conference rooms have a designated maximum number of persons who may be in a room at any one time.
12. Each room has a supply of anti-bac hand-gel, anti-bac cleaning spray, disposable towels and disposable gloves.
13. Our building ventilation systems use air handling units to extract stale air and replace it with a supply of clean, fresh, filtered air. The Managing Agents have made changes to make sure they bring in fresh air during coronavirus outbreak. There are temperature controls to cool or warm air to the desired temperature in the conference rooms.

14. As the virus is less likely to be passed on in well-ventilated buildings and outdoors, and Public Health England and Public Health Wales guidance confirms the risk of transmission through air management systems is low.

5. FACE COVERINGS

Members, staff, pupils, visitors and contractors must wear a face covering in all public and communal parts of the building. You can ask a member of staff for a face covering if you need one, though we request that you bring your own.

You do not need to wear a face covering if you have a practical reason (exemption) not to. For example:

1. you have disability or health issue that makes it difficult
2. wearing one will cause you severe distress
3. a deaf person you support needs to read your lips
4. you are eating, drinking or taking medicine.
5. children under the age of 11 (in England and Wales) do not need to wear a face covering.

If you have a reason why you cannot wear a face covering, you may find it helpful to wear a lanyard with an exemption card or to carry an exemption card with you.

Exemption cards are available to download on GOV.UK <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own>

You may be asked to temporarily remove your face covering for identification purposes. If you are presenting evidence virtually to the court, the judge or magistrate may also ask you to take your face covering off temporarily. If you need to communicate with someone who relies on lip reading, facial expressions and clear sound, they may ask you to take your face covering off.

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