



Provincial Grand Lodge and Chapter of
Lincolnshire
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Tuesday, 15 June 2021

Dear Brother/Companion,

Government Restrictions – Covid 19

Further to the Prime Minister's announcement last evening, in England the Stage 3 restrictions will broadly speaking continue to apply after 21 June. As a reminder this means that:

Masonic meetings of up to 6 people are permitted.

If a Masonic Centre has conducted a risk assessment, taken into account government guidance and taken all reasonable steps to minimise the risk of transmission of Covid then it may host Covid-Secure Masonic meetings of more than 6 people, up to the lower of:

- a. the maximum capacity identified in the risk assessment; or
- b. 30 attendees.

Dining is restricted to groups of up to 6 people. The guidance in this area changes regularly but this note reflects the current understanding and is intended to help share knowledge and guidance but is not legal advice.

Further to the above, many Masonic centres in Lincolnshire had planned to open on Monday 5th July 2021 in support of the NHS, Social Care and Frontline Workers' Day. Unfortunately, owing to the extension of the restrictions, this will not now be possible. However, the following advice has been received from **Bruno Peek, NHS and Social Care – Frontline Workers Day** (www.nhsfrontlineday.org):

NHS, SOCIAL CARE & FRONTLINE WORKERS DAY – MONDAY 5TH JULY 2021

Prime Minister Boris Johnson has announced that the final stage of lockdown easing will **NOT** go ahead on June 21 because of rising cases of the Delta variant of coronavirus.

A number of restrictions which were expected to be lifted will remain in place for the moment; namely limits on the number of people who can mix indoors (that's six people or two households indoors) and outdoors (up to 30 people can still meet outside). It also means that pubs and restaurants will still have to continue observing a limit on numbers. So, what does this mean for our planned events on July 5th?

10am: The raising of the Rainbow Flag: schools, churches, hospitals, shops, communities and organisations who have bought our specially-commissioned outdoor flags will still be able to raise them with a crowd of no more than 30 people in attendance.

11am: The Two Minute Silence, playing of the Last Post and Reveille: again, this can happen with six people or two households if the event is staged indoors, and with up to 30 people if it's held outdoors.

1pm: The Nation's Toast to the Heroes of the NHS and Frontline Workers: again, this can happen with six people or two households if the event is staged indoors, and with up to 30 people if it's held outdoors. And the toast, to be made from the four highest peaks in the UK - Mount Snowdon in Wales; Scafell Pike, in England; Ben Nevis, in Scotland and Slieve Donald, in Northern Ireland WILL go ahead as planned.

1pm – Onwards: Garden Parties at home and celebrations in the gardens of pubs, hotels and restaurants etc: 30 people can be invited to enjoy the celebrations in family, friends and neighbours' gardens. The hospitality industry will have to continue to observe a limit on numbers as currently applies.

4pm: Afternoon Tea with the Women's Institutes: again, this can happen with six people or two households if the event is staged indoors, and with up to 30 people if it's held outdoors.

8pm: Clapping and the Ringing of Church Bells: No restrictions on clapping on your doorstep with members of your family or another household. For bellringers, ringing sessions should be pre-arranged for six people, rather than drop-in. Hand sanitisation should take place before ringing and before changing ropes. Face coverings should be worn at all times inside. Social distancing in the tower should be two metres at all non-ringing times.

Mr Johnson said the easing of lockdown would mean "a real possibility" of the virus outrunning the vaccines and leading to thousands more deaths which could otherwise have been avoided. We must all be vigilant, but with sensible precautions and following the simple rules of Hands – Face – Space we can all have a wonderful day when we say thank you to our frontline and care home workers who continue to keep us safe during the coronavirus pandemic.

I sincerely hope, that once all restrictions are lifted, centres will consider having an open day to demonstrate to our local communities that we are, once again, open for business.

Yours sincerely and fraternally,



D. M. Wheeler
Provincial Grand Master
Provincial Grand Superintendent