



The Government of Sark

PANDEMIC EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

A COMMITTEE OF THE CHIEF PLEAS OF SARK

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LIVING WITH COVID

16th November 2021

Dear Resident,

The Committee would like to thank all Islanders for their response to the recently issued guidelines on the Government website and Pandemic Emergency Committee's Facebook page regarding the wearing of face coverings and taking lateral flow tests. These actions help to protect our community and the Bailiwick infrastructure on which we rely.

It remains strongly recommended that individuals regularly take lateral flow tests, particularly before attending a public event, and that those who are able wear a face covering in public places such as shops, bars, restaurants and the Medical Centre and when attending public events. Islanders should also continue to practice social distancing where possible and use hand sanitiser. If you have ANY symptoms, however mild, please do not rely on lateral flow tests, you must stay at home and contact the surgery (phone 832045, or email practice.manager@sarkmedical.co.uk).

We want you all to continue living your lives as normal and enjoy the forthcoming festive season. There is no need to cancel popular winter events such as jumble sales/ Christmas fayres, but to protect our community, we ask you all to take care of yourselves and others by following the recommendations outlined above.

Lateral flow test packs can be collected from the Committee Office between the hours of 11am and 3pm, Monday – Friday.

The latest guidelines for the Bailiwick of Guernsey are overleaf.

PTO:

Civil Contingencies Authority to continue strongly recommending face coverings in certain settings

The Civil Contingencies Authority has agreed today that the use of face coverings should not be made mandatory but should continue to be strongly recommended in certain settings including:

1. Where physical distancing is not possible
2. Where there is poor ventilation
3. Where there are close crowds, or where individuals need to work in very close proximity with colleagues, service users or customers

The CCA discussed in detail if it should make the use of face coverings mandatory but voted against this. The decision not to make their use mandatory was in line with a range of evidence and advice from officers in different service areas including public health and other medical experts. A crucial factor in the decision was the increase in use of face coverings seen across the community in the past few days.

It is encouraging to see far more people wearing face coverings, indicating that the whole community is taking responsibility not just for their own health but for the health of others. The use of face coverings - alongside regular Lateral Flow testing, staying at home when unwell and PCR testing those with symptoms – helps to avoid transmitting the virus without causing too much disruption in the day to day lives of Islanders.

The CCA will continue to monitor the use of face coverings over the coming weeks, as it monitors the number of positive cases and importantly, the pressures on the hospital which currently is continuing to cope well.

The CCA also continues to monitor the impact of cases on various services. As those who test positive are required to isolate for at least 10 days, the rising number of cases does present a concern for various workforces both in the public and private sector. While many of these individuals will experience only a mild illness or even no symptoms at all, the nature of their job may mean they are not able to work from home.