

## BIDDENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

### PARISH UPDATE

19 October 2020

## COVID-19

The Local Covid Alert for Biddenden is currently MEDIUM. To find out what Medium restrictions are and how they affect you, please follow this link <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-covid-alert-level-medium>.

### Face Coverings

There have been several instances of people not wearing face coverings in shops and so listed below is information to clarify where they must be worn. There are penalties which the police can issue in order to enforce the wearing of masks and details can be found under the relevant heading.

In England, you must wear a face covering in the following indoor settings (a list of examples for each is included in the brackets):

- public transport (aeroplanes, trains, trams and buses)
- taxis and private hire vehicles (PHVs)
- transport hubs (airports, rail and tram stations and terminals, maritime ports and terminals, bus and coach stations and terminals)
- shops and supermarkets (places which offer goods or services for retail sale or hire)
- shopping centres (malls and indoor markets)
- auction houses
- premises providing hospitality (bars, pubs, restaurants, cafes), except when seated at a table to eat or drink (see [exemptions](#))
- post offices, banks, building societies, high-street solicitors and accountants, credit unions, short-term loan providers, savings clubs and money service businesses
- estate and lettings agents
- theatres
- premises providing personal care and beauty treatments (hair salons, barbers, nail salons, massage centres, tattoo and piercing parlours)
- premises providing veterinary services

- visitor attractions and entertainment venues (museums, galleries, cinemas, theatres, concert halls, cultural and heritage sites, aquariums, indoor zoos and visitor farms, bingo halls, amusement arcades, adventure activity centres, indoor sports stadiums, funfairs, theme parks, casinos, skating rinks, bowling alleys, indoor play areas including soft-play areas)
- libraries and public reading rooms
- places of worship
- funeral service providers (funeral homes, crematoria and burial ground chapels)
- community centres, youth centres and social clubs
- exhibition halls and conference centres
- public areas in hotels and hostels
- storage and distribution facilities

You are expected to wear a face covering before entering any of these settings and must keep it on until you leave unless there is a reasonable excuse for removing it.

You should also wear a face covering in indoor places not listed here where social distancing may be difficult and where you will come into contact with people you do not normally meet.

Face coverings are needed in NHS settings, including hospitals and primary or community care settings, such as GP surgeries. They are also advised to be worn in care homes.

### **Enforcement of wearing face coverings**

The police can take measures if members of the public do not comply with this law without a valid exemption and transport operators can deny access to their public transport services if a passenger is not wearing a face covering, or direct them to wear one or leave a service.

If necessary, the police and Transport for London (TfL) officers have enforcement powers including issuing fines of £200 (reduced to £100 if paid within 14 days) for the first offence.

Repeat offenders receiving fines on public transport or in an indoor setting will have their fines doubled at each offence.

After the first offence, there will be no discount. For example, receiving a second fine will amount to £400 and a third fine will be £800, up to a maximum value of £6,400.

### **When you do not need to wear a face mask**

In settings where face coverings are required in England, there are some circumstances where people may not be able to wear a face covering. Please be mindful and respectful of such circumstances, noting that some people are less able to wear face coverings, and that the reasons for this may not be visible to others.

This includes (but is not limited to):

- children under the age of 11 (Public Health England does not recommend face coverings for children under the age of 3 for health and safety reasons)
- people who cannot put on, wear or remove a face covering because of a physical or mental illness or impairment, or disability
- where putting on, wearing or removing a face covering will cause you severe distress
- if you are speaking to or providing assistance to someone who relies on lip reading, clear sound or facial expressions to communicate
- to avoid harm or injury, or the risk of harm or injury, to yourself or others – including if it would negatively impact on your ability to exercise or participate in a strenuous activity
- police officers and other emergency workers, given that this may interfere with their ability to serve the public

There are also scenarios when you are permitted to remove a face covering:

- if asked to do so in a bank, building society, or post office for identification
- if asked to do so by shop staff or relevant employees for identification, for assessing health recommendations (for example by a pharmacist), or for age identification purposes including when buying age restricted products such as alcohol
- if required in order to receive treatment or services, for example when getting a facial
- in order to take medication
- if you are delivering a sermon or prayer in a place of worship
- if you are the persons getting married in a relevant place
- if you are aged 11 to 18 attending a faith school and having lessons in a place of worship as part of your core curriculum
- if you are undertaking exercise or an activity and it would negatively impact your ability to do so
- if you are an elite sports person, professional dancer or referee acting in the course of your employment
- when seated to eat or drink in a hospitality premise such as a pub, bar, restaurant or cafe. You must put a face covering back on once you finish eating or drinking

## PARISH COUNCIL CO-OPTION

The Parish Council is delighted to announce that Sara Newman was co-opted onto the Parish Council at its meeting on 6 October 2020. The Parish Council now has its full complement of 11 councillors.

## REPORTING CRIMES

If you witness an incident or are the victim of a crime, please report the crime to the Police as follows:

### Emergency

#### Call **999** if:

- a serious offence is in progress or has just been committed
- someone is in immediate danger or harm
- property is in danger of being damaged
- a serious disruption to the public is likely

You can also text 'Police' to 60066 if you're deaf or hard of hearing.

### Silent 999 calls

If you're in danger but you can't talk on the phone, you should still call 999, then [follow these instructions](#) depending on whether you're calling from a mobile or a landline.

Non-emergency [101](#)

### Live Chat

You can also speak to someone online via Live Chat to report an incident. This can be found by following this link <https://www.kent.police.uk/contact/af/contact-us/> and looking at the bottom right for the Live Chat button.

#### Call **101** for non-emergency enquiries.

You can also text 'Police' to 60066 if you're deaf or hard of hearing.

### Anti-Terrorism

Call the UK Anti-Terrorism Hotline on [0800 789 321](tel:0800789321) if you've seen or heard something that you think could suggest terrorist activity.

## Stay anonymous - Crimestoppers

Online: [crimestoppers-uk.org](https://crimestoppers-uk.org)

By phone: 0800 555 111