

Weddings and Civil Partnerships (CP) as at 6 April 2021

From 29 March 2021:

- May take place for a maximum of six people, in a COVID-19 secure register office, place of worship or place permitted to be open and conduct ceremonies with social distancing in place. Anyone working is not included in the attendee numbers.
- In Milton Keynes this means for a statutory wedding / CP the couple and two witnesses only; for Flowers, the couple and four guests, two of whom will be witnesses.
- Social distancing measures and face coverings required; content is restricted to statutory elements only.

From the earliest of 12 April 2021:

- May take place for a maximum of 15 people and outdoor receptions are permitted in specified locations with social distancing in place. Anyone working is not included in the attendee numbers.
- In Milton Keynes this means for a statutory wedding / CP the couple and two witnesses only; for Flowers, the couple and ten guests, two of whom will be witnesses.
- For licensed venues that are permitted to open, up to a maximum of 15 or fewer depending on their COVID-19 risk assessment.
- Social distancing measures and face coverings required; content is restricted to statutory elements only.
- Confirmation of the above was received from government on 5 April.

From the earliest of 17 May 2021:

- Subject to the four tests being met, may take place for a maximum of 30 people and indoor receptions are permitted in specified locations with social distancing in place. Anyone working is not included in the attendee numbers.
- In Milton Keynes this means for a statutory wedding / CP the couple and two witnesses only; for Flowers, it remains the couple and ten guests, two of who will be witnesses.
- For licensed venues that are permitted to open, up to a maximum of 30 people or fewer depending on their COVID-19 risk assessment.
- Social distancing measures and face coverings required; content is restricted to statutory elements only.
- Confirmation will be received from government by 10 May that the above may go ahead.

From the earliest of 21 June 2021:

- Subject to the four tests being met, may take place for the number of people shown on a building's licence / COVID-19 risk assessment with social distancing in place.
- The "no legal limit" on attendees is subject to the outcome of the scientific Events Research Programme – from April the government will run pilots for events, such as large weddings, to help determine how measures such as enhanced testing might allow large groups to attend without social distancing.
- In Milton Keynes Council buildings, social distancing and other measures are likely to be in place even when restrictions are lifted. This means for a statutory wedding / CP, the couple and two witnesses only; for Flowers, this will remain the couple and ten guests, two of whom will be witnesses.
- For licensed venues, up to the maximum of people shown in their licence / COVID-19 risk assessment.
- Social distancing and other restrictions may still be in place; content may still be restricted.
- Confirmation will be received from government by 14 June that the above may go ahead.

Please note: Milton Keynes Council will review social distancing measures as new government guidelines are published. However, they reserve the right to limit numbers according to building risk assessments. This is likely to mean there will be no increase to the 12-person limit for ceremonies in the Flowers Suite and other restrictions will be in place.

For more information, see the link below to government advice on small weddings and civil partnerships:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-small-marriages-and-civil-partnerships>