

Crosby Camera Club (CCC)

Recommendations to help prevent Members and Visitors from contracting coronavirus and to help stop the spread of coronavirus when indoor meetings resume

Background

Although coronavirus restrictions were lifted in England on 19 July 2021, 'coronavirus remains a serious health risk. You should stay cautious to help protect yourself and others' (*Gov.UK, August 2021*).

Currently, the number of reported coronavirus infections is rising in the UK, as is the reported number of daily deaths. These numbers will probably continue to rise as schools return and as we witness the results of the Government's lifting of coronavirus restrictions. Added to that, the approaching winter months are likely to bring a rise in viral infection rates, due to both coronavirus and seasonal 'flu.

Although it is likely that the majority of us are fairly well protected by double vaccination from serious or life-threatening infection, we have to remember that we can all become infected and, of course, we can all transmit coronavirus, whether symptomatic or not. Although, infection in a double vaccinated person may not induce serious illness, it can still result in feeling very unwell. There is also the risk of developing 'long Covid' to consider.

The following recommendations will become part of our Health & Safety Policy in the near future. It is also possible that Risk Assessment Criteria will be applied to each intervention.

Interestingly, Camera Clubs don't come under the scope of Health & Safety legislation, therefore, it is not a legal requirement to have a policy in place (*Photographic Alliance of Great Britain, February 2015*). Nevertheless, it is considered good practice and a wise move to maintain an appropriate policy. As a responsible Club, we should be doing our best to protect people from harm.

Crosby Camera Club

Precautions and recommendations for implementation when Members and Visitors meet in an indoor meeting room

- 1.** Ensure the room is well ventilated by opening as many windows and possibly doors, as possible. People should be advised to wear coats etc if room is cool.
- 2.** Members and visitors should wear an adequate and suitable face covering when in meeting room (unless exempt). Provided the speaker or judge is an adequate distance from the audience, he or she may not need to wear a face covering. If a person asks someone to remove their mask to facilitate lip-reading, that should be possible for a short time.
Note: 'Face coverings are no longer required by law, but the government expects and recommends that people should continue to wear them in crowded and enclosed settings, to protect themselves and others' (*Gov.UK, August 2021*).
- 3.** Although suitable hand sanitising gel will be available and should be used on arrival, Members and visitors should be encouraged to carry their own hand gel.
- 4.** Seating will be socially distanced.
- 5.** On arrival, each person should be signed in (by one individual).
- 6.** No refreshments will be served (sadly), but Members and Visitors could bring their own.
- 7.** Congregating around notice-boards, corridors and doorways etc should be avoided.
- 8.** Members and Visitors may wish to avoid hand-shaking - this should be respected.
- 9.** Importantly, a Member or Visitor should not attend if they have symptoms suggestive of Covid or, if they feel generally unwell for an unexplained reason. Additionally, they must not attend if they have knowingly been in contact with anyone with Covid.
- 10.** As currently recommended by the government, it is good practice to self-test for Covid, using a lateral flow test twice a week.