



Coronavirus
COVID-19
Public Health
Advice

Wedding Band Association

Guidelines and measures to ensure the
safety of wedding guests, venue staff
and band members

www.weddingbandassociation.ie

Note: This is a living document which means as Government restrictions and Public Health guidelines evolve, this document will also evolve to reflect new Government advice and changes to protocols when they emerge. All sectoral guidelines have been developed in line with the Government's Roadmap for Reopening Society and Business and the Return to Work Safely Protocol, based on the latest health guidance available from the Department of Health and the HSE. Wedding Band Association will inform all its members in the event this document has to be amended to meet government requests.

1. Introduction

The Wedding Band Association have been proactive through-out the ongoing covid-19 pandemic crisis. We have implemented systems in response to the impact of covid19 which have been very effective in helping our members and more importantly our clients (wedding couples). Our booking transfer system scheme is just one of our many responses that has helped wedding couples and our members. You can read [HERE](#) for more understanding on this scheme. Going forward, into the "New Norm" we want to ensure that we can play our part by implementing measures to protect the health and safety of our members, wedding guests and venue staff.

Building relations and concise communication with Wedding Venues:

As per government guidelines, weddings of up to 100 people will be allowed from the 10th August. We believe that now is the time that the wedding industry collectively should instil confidence for wedding couples, especially the couples who are still holding out and plan to have their wedding as planned in the near future. Currently there is no clear guidelines delivered by government nor HSE for Wedding Bands to adhere too. In this document we deliver a set of measures that we believe will be welcomed by Wedding venues and also wedding couples.

Wedding entertainment is an integral part of every great wedding and we want to ensure our colleagues (wedding venues) and clients (wedding couples) that we are been pro-active in delivering measures that will protect the safety of wedding guests, venue staff and band members.

Meeting and overcoming the challenge of Covid - 19

We understand that the basic steps of handwashing, mask wearing and social distancing are three key elements in preventing the spread of covid-19. It is important that we all familiarise ourselves with the latest guidelines from the following sources. We will constantly review updates from all of the below departments.

- Health Services Executive (HSE)
- Health and Safety Authority (HSA)
- Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC)
- Irish Government Departments
- World Health Organisation (WHO)

First Step to success:

Like Wedding venues and everyone else in the Wedding industry, we all want to get back to work. Communication between venues and vendors (IE: wedding bands) will be extremely instrumental in helping us achieve that goal. We know that weddings can be great even with the presence of CV19 in our society, we should be collectively making every effort to make it work and instil confidence for our wedding couples. We will adjust to the “new norm” and we will continue to deliver quality entertainment, service and apply new measures to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

Covid-19 Officer training course

The Wedding band association has advised for all membered bands to complete a Covid-19 Officer training course. This is been commissioned by the association. This course will be part of our strategy to build confidence as we get back to performing at weddings and we believe it will also be welcomed by all wedding venues, wedding couples and their guests.

Additional measures:

Below are additional measures, these guidelines/measures have also been sent to [NPHET](#) for their review (waiting response). We advise that these measures should be adhered to by all membered bands in the wedding band association. We cannot be responsible for bands who are not part of the association. As a collective we understand the importance of protecting our business and these measures will enhance the safety of the wedding couples/ guests, the venue staff and also band members.

Health Care Checklist:

- (a) Independent fever checks on arrival to venue.
- (b) Hand hygiene practice and hand sanitising will be consistently practiced by all members of the band.
- (c) Masks can be worn while entering venue via delivery areas, while setting up equipment and when taking down equipment. (on request of the venue)
- (d) Band members will not congregate with wedding guests nor wedding venue staff and consistently maintain social distancing practices. Point of contact should be with banqueting manager only.
- (e) Band members names will be provided for contact tracing purposes. (on the request of the venue)
- (f) All equipment will be disinfected between events to help prevent any cross infection.
- (g) Bands will not allow singers – This will be announced pre-performance and noted to the couples well in advance of the wedding date
- (h) A safety barrier where possible will be placed to indicate a minimum of 2 metre distance between wedding guests and the band
- (i) Band members on stage will distance were applicable
- (j) In the event of any breaches of social distancing between band members and guests it may be considered that the music should stop. IE: Any guest that breaks social distancing measures with the band or in the event of wreck-less behaviour
- (k) At the interval the band will try to find an area that isolates them from the wedding party. This can be discussed with the venue in advance.

Social distancing while dancing (our thoughts)

There has been a lot of confusion and questions about dancing. Luke O Neill (*professor of biochemistry in the School of Biochemistry and Immunology at Trinity College Dublin*) confirmed on the Pat Kenny show “newstalk” (13.07.2020) that dancing is 100% permitted once social distancing measures are implemented. Our members are confident that this can be controlled, and also announcing this before the performance will be effective. By default and in most cases people generally do keep a relative distance while dancing. Therefore we do not see dancing as a core safety breach and dancing should be encouraged.

Requirements:

The only requirement we request from venues is a suitable area to load equipment that causes no obstruction that might endanger or break safety measures outlined above. Having access that does not infringe the wedding guests would be preferred.

Conclusion:

All of the above proposed measures are guidelines. Additional requests from the venue, wedding couples or NPHEA will be welcomed. Our core objective is to instil confidence in wedding couples and their guests and build an ongoing solid line of communication with the venues going forward. As noted above, music is an integral part of every great wedding and we will be consistent on delivering a safe environment for our wedding couples and band members.

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