

A guide for holding Remembrance Day events

Remembrance Day will be observed nationally on Wednesday 11th November 2020. Remembrance Sunday will be held on Sunday 8th November 2020.

As stated by the British Legion, “The Act of Remembrance is brief and non-religious, making it exceptionally well-suited to personalised commemorations”. We therefore ask that any services or events this year, including those that form a act of worship, be held adhering to the current Covid-19 guidelines.

The Covid Alert Levels, across all tiers, provide for a specific exception for Remembrance Sunday events at a public war memorial or cenotaph, provided appropriate precautions are undertaken by the event organiser. This includes the completion of a Covid-19 risk assessment and the introduction of all reasonable measures to limit the transmission of the virus.

Given this, we are encouraging residents to be responsible and consider how best to participate in Remembrance Day events, taking account of the current Covid restrictions and current levels of risk in your area. Although it may be disappointing to not be present, or to take part in a restricted manner, the safety of our communities is our priority.

Any local events should be adapted to reflect the same principles being followed by the Remembrance Sunday event at the National Cenotaph. They should therefore:

- Be short, and focused on wreath laying, with a reduced march past or parade only if social distancing can be maintained
- Take advantage of opportunities for wreath layers to represent wider groups
- Not involve communal singing

- Keep numbers to a minimum, focusing attendance on those who have a roll to play including those wishing to lay wreaths
- Take reasonable steps to minimise wider public viewing, encouraging the public to observe the rule of 6 when spectating
- Observe social distancing at all times
- Take reasonable steps to record the contact details of those attending for Test and Trace purposes.

Event organisers should keep numbers to a minimum. For the avoidance of doubt, the following people are legally permitted to attend events to commemorate Remembrance Sunday as participants:

- People acting as part of their work (such as local councillors, local faith leaders, local MPs)
- People attending in a voluntary capacity on behalf of a recognised organisation
- Members of the armed forces
- Veterans of the armed forces, and/or their representatives or carers.

Event organisers could consider live streaming their event to include others who are wanting to take part from their own home.

There is additional guidance available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-authority-preparations-for-remembrance-sunday/local-authority-preparations-for-remembrance-sunday>

<https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/remembrance/about-remembrance/act-of-remembrance>.