

# The Riding School - Coronavirus COVID-19 Update

**This page was last updated on Tuesday 23 February 2021**

The impact of the COVID-19 is being felt all over the world and across every industry. We understand that for those of you who have booked your wedding, this gives you an added level of uncertainty, stress and anxiety. We want you to know that we at Ivy House Weddings are here for you and should you have any questions or concerns and we will do our utmost to help.

We are in constant communication with both The National Trust and Black Peppermint Food Company and are closely following the advice of the Government, Public Health England and the World Health Organisation and will continue to do so.

**On 23 February 2021 the Prime Minister addressed the House Of Commons and set out the countries 'Road map out of lockdown'**

The road map was split into four stages. Moving from one stage to the next is dependent on a series of tests being applied. The tests are:

1. The vaccine deployment programme continues successfully.
2. Evidence shows vaccines are sufficiently effective in reducing hospitalisations and deaths in those vaccinated.
3. Infection rates do not risk a surge in hospitalisations which would put unsustainable pressure on the NHS.
4. Our assessment of the risks is not fundamentally changed by new Variants of Concern

## **So what are the stages?**

Stage one will happen on 8 March - weddings of 6 people will be able to take place, without receptions

Stage two will happen no earlier than 12 April subject to the four tests being applied and passed - weddings with upto 15 people will be able to take place with wedding receptions.

Stage three will happen no earlier than 17 May subject to the four tests being applied and passed - weddings with upto 30 people will be able to take place with wedding receptions.

Stage four will happen no earlier than 21 June subject to the four tests being applied and passed - the Government will remove all limits on weddings, subject to the outcome of the scientific Events Research Programme.

## **So what does this mean for The Riding School?**

## **WEDDINGS BOOKED FOR 2021**

Ourselves, The National Trust and The Black Peppermint Company have a duty of care to our couples and all their guests as well as our staff and we are eagerly waiting for further clarification on certain points in the guidance released yesterday.

We have made contact with all of our couples who are due to marry in 2021 and will work with them and their suppliers to make decisions about hosting their celebrations if they fall before or close to 21 June.

For all couples who are due to marry in 2021, we will make contact to arrange their final meeting to discuss the running order of their day. At this meeting, we will also conduct, with them, a risk assessment. At Stage three, the Government will further ease limits on social contact, enabling the public to make informed personal decisions. They have stated that it will remain important for people to consider the risks for themselves, taking into account whether they and those they meet have been vaccinated or are at greater risk. Therefore we must take into account whether any of their guests are in the higher risk categories as well as any risk that our staff may face.

The Government have also stated that they will review whether COVID-status certification could play a role in reopening our economy, reducing restrictions on social contact and improving safety. Therefore, if it does become a requirement in order to attend a larger celebration, it will be imperative that you inform your guests of this.

Over the spring the Government will run a scientific Events Research Programme. This will include a series of pilots using enhanced testing approaches and other measures to run events with larger crowd sizes and reduced social distancing to evaluate the outcomes. The pilots will start in April and we eagerly await the outcome of these.

### **Meetings with our current couples**

At this moment in time, it remains against the law for us to meet up with our couples in person but we continue to offer support over zoom, email and the telephone.

### **Viewings and New Bookings**

Under the current guidance, in person venue viewings are not allowed to take place for any wedding venue. We are waiting for clarity on whether venue viewings fall in stage two, under non essential retail or stage three as indoor hospitality.

We are currently offering virtual viewings via zoom and will continue to do so until we are allowed to invite you back into the Riding School.

### **Contacting Us**

We know that this is such a stressful situation and we fully sympathise with you and the difficulties that you are facing with your wedding plans. However, please be reassured that Black Peppermint Food Company, The National Trust, ourselves are in constant contact. We are all working with many of your suppliers and are here to support you and will endeavour to help in any way we can.

We all want your wedding day to be the day you always dreamed of.

We are sure that you will have many questions about your day and will try our best to answer all of them for you.

### **Office Hours**

Our aim is to keep this page up to date with our latest stance on COVID-19 but you can also reach us via email - [info@ivyhouseweddings.co.uk](mailto:info@ivyhouseweddings.co.uk) or on 01332 501252 **Monday – Friday from 10am – 4pm**

Stay safe and socially distant!

We hope to be celebrating with you as soon as possible.

With Love Rebecca and Emma xx