**COVID-19 Safety Update – ABWAK 2022**

Our advice is informed by Government guidance, and this remains under review as the situation changes.

In July and August 2021, the Government relaxed many of the national requirements relating to COVID-19.  At **ABWAK** we have now reviewed the latest available information and are making a couple of requirements to make our annual Symposium and workshops as safe for you all as we possibly can.

We understand that this continues to be a challenging time for our members. We want to make sure you have access to as much available information as possible to enable you to make the right decisions for yourselves. We will endeavour to keep you informed of the latest information by email, social media and during our symposiums and workshops.

It is important to highlight that all **ABWAK** members should have respect for each other's safety as we all deal with coronavirus. That spirit - of individual responsibility and respect for all - continues going forward.

**ABWAK** will apply all government legal requirements and follow the best and latest available advice.

This may include but not be wholly exclusive to a requirement for attendees to provide Covid passports, proof of vaccination, apply social distancing rules, a requirement for face coverings and legal regional travel restrictions.

Whilst we aim to offer the latest information with time for changes this may not be possible and it is totally dependent on the timescales offered by the Government.

**ABWAK** does not accept responsibility for any extra individual incurred costs or issues related to changes in programmes, location or offering caused by the impact of Covid. **ABWAK** retains the right to apply an administration fee for any changes requested to bookings for the workshops and Symposium. Booking T&C’s apply separate for each event.

**Testing**

Whilst there is no requirement to complete regular testing, we do recommend that **ABWAK** members follow government guidance to consider doing regular Lateral Flow Tests. You can obtain LFT test kits free from chemists/other stores or by visiting the government website: [Order coronavirus (COVID-19) rapid lateral flow tests - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests).

**ABWAK** will require all delegates attending either the symposium or workshops to complete a simple signed Covid Self-Assessment form on arrival.

This will be a simple questionnaire stating “that to the best of your knowledge you are COVID free, have no recognised symptoms and not been in close contact with anyone displaying symptoms or who has tested positive for Covid during the previous ten days.”.

The individual collections where the symposium or workshop is being held will have their own risk assessments and Covid requirements in place. We respect those and will apply all locally required restrictions. All attending delegates must adhere to additional local measures where they exist - These are based on local risk assessments.

**Face Coverings**

We respect all members who wish to wear a face covering at any time and support those that wish to do so, especially indoors in the following circumstances:

* If you are moving around in a building.
* If you are in close proximity of colleagues
* In areas where there is no/little ventilation

Note: You can improve natural ventilation by fully or partly opening windows, air vents and doors.

We are advising that there is currently no requirement to wear masks outdoors, therefore it is your personal choice whether to do so or not.

Disposable face masks will be provided by **ABWAK** for general use at workshops and during the symposium. We ask that these are disposed of correctly and in line with hygiene and environmental requirements.

**Social distancing**

Social distancing rules are no longer officially in place nationally.  However, we would still encourage **ABWAK** members to maintain a reasonable distance (observing the 2m or 1m+ precautions rule) wherever possible as best practice, both indoors and outdoors.

Unless the visiting collection specifies as an onsite requirement, we**will not** require delegates to socially distance formally and this would be down to personal choice.

**Vaccinations**

**ABWAK** encourage all delegates to get fully vaccinated. Vaccination is free for everyone in the UK.  You can book your COVID-19 vaccination now on the [NHS website](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/).

Currently vaccination is not compulsory, however we will apply all government guidance on large gatherings and associated rules.

**Meeting Rooms & Site locations**

COVID-19 risk assessments will be completed by the location collection for all meeting room environments and areas associated to the delivery of the symposium and workshops.

COVID-19 secure measures will be identified and shared to the **ABWAK** council by the relevant responsible person at each site prior to any event taking place.

These risk assessments, including the number of individuals that can use office space / meeting rooms will be adhered to.

**Personal Hygiene**

All delegates are encouraged to practice their own good personal hygiene and staying safe regimes. This includes regular handwashing and use of hand sanitiser where provided.

**ABWAK** will take all reasonable measures, in line with Government guidance, to control the spread of COVID-19 at our events. However, there is always the possibility of contagion and we cannot be held responsible for any financial or health related outcomes that this may incur for the individual.