

# **Tenterden Folk Festival 2021**

## **Covid Safety for Morris sides and dance teams**

The Tenterden Folk Festival Trustees and Committee take the safety of all those attending the festival seriously and have been discussing the safety of Morris dancers and display teams for some time. Covid safety was also one of the many matters raised by the Ashford Borough Council Safety Advisory Group (SAG). We will therefore be putting in place a number of special arrangements including those listed below.

We will, of course, be following government regulations and advise and the advice of the SAG and Tenterden Town Council.

### **Dance sites:**

All dance sites are outdoors, in the fresh air.

There are plenty of suitable places to dance in Tenterden Town Centre and we will add extra sites to the recommended list if sides wish to distance themselves from other sides and dance on their own.

Those sides that are happy to do so can still form small groups of two or three sides.

### **Town Hall Forecourt:**

We are planning to set up barriers outside the Town Hall to create a small area for dance sides and separate them from the watching public while still keeping a clear pathway for the public to pass by. This will also keep everyone safe from passing traffic.

### **Procession:**

We are expecting fewer sides this year so the procession may be smaller. This means more space can be left between sides.

### **Mass display:**

The procession is usually followed by a mass display on the Recreation Ground stage. This mass display may not happen this year but if it does sides are welcome to opt out and go back to dancing around the town. A final decision about the mass display will be made nearer the time.

### **Hands, face, space**

The wearing of face coverings or masks will be encouraged in any crowded spaces such as corridors and toilets and will be welcomed throughout the festival.

Social distancing will be facilitated. For example we have booked a wider marquee for the stalls on the Recreation Ground which everyone likes to visit. There will be an outside bar and food stall on the Recreation Ground and a food stall in the High Street, so you can eat and drink in the fresh air. There are also plenty of other outdoor facilities at local cafes and pubs.

### **Camping:**

Social distancing will be facilitated on the festival campsite with more space between caravans and tents.

**The printed programme will include the following.**

**PLEASE RESPECT OUR VOLUNTEERS AND GUESTS AND BE COVID SAFE.**

Follow government guidelines.

Hands, face, space!

Get vaccinated!

Take a test!

Please do **NOT** attend the festival if you know or think you might have Covid.

**Safety and enjoyment:**

We want you to feel safe and be safe but we do not want any of our precautions for your safety to detract from your enjoyment of the festival.

**Your feedback is important to us:**

If you have any specific concerns or suggestions for added precautions, please do not hesitate to let us know. We take your, and our, safety seriously.