The Registration Service is responding to the fast-developing and changing national and international situation in response to Covid 19.

There has been a lot of focus on potential restrictions on numbers of people allowed to gather in one place.  Neath Port Talbot Register Office continue to conduct ceremonies at the Register Office and at Approved Venues (e.g. hotels) across Neath Port Talbot until such time that the advice from Government changes.

In the interest of our community, we must follow the rules and guidance on social distancing and with immediate effect ceremonies need to be on a very small scale.  Legally only six people need to be present at a marriage ceremony: the couple and two Registrars, plus two witnesses. **We have made the difficult decision to restrict numbers immediately to the couple and 2 witnesses**

Unfortunately, during this unprecedented worldwide pandemic, we cannot be certain how events will unfold, or indeed what the Government advice and guidance will be at the time ceremonies are due to take place.  However, we are doing everything in our power to conduct ceremonies on the day and time it is booked.

We are asking couples to prepare for the risk that on the day arrangements may need to be flexible. This is because we cannot accurately predict the numbers of Registrars who may need to self-isolate on a specific day. This may mean that ceremonies are conducted at a different time or that, as a last resort, we have to postpone it.  In the most extreme circumstances, we may have to call couples on the day of their ceremony to postpone if staff are self-isolating, or Government guidance changes overnight.

**Couples can postpone their ceremony free of charge by contacting the Register Office on 01639 760021 or email: registrars@npt.gov.uk**

We are also asking that if couples, or anyone living with them or a guest has been advised by a doctor, health professional, NHS 111 or Public Health Wales to self-isolate at home because of Covid 19 infection, please contact the Register Office to postpone your ceremony.

Couples wishing to change the venue may do so but this will be subject to a statutory fee of £35 per person because a new Notice of Marriage is required by law.

**We thank all our customers for their understanding at this difficult time.**