

electoral administration bulletin

The
Electoral
Commission



Issue 315 (England) – 19 July 2021

Contents

Changes to UK Government regulations on face coverings

Information on changes to UK Government regulations on face coverings, and a reminder of our supplementary election guidance.

EA Bulletins are issued on a regular basis. They are one of our key channels for communicating with Returning Officers, Electoral Registration Officers and their staff. Past issues of Bulletins for England, Scotland and Wales are available [here](#). You can also [subscribe to the EA Bulletins](#).

Please [keep us informed](#) of any staff changes within your team. This will help us to keep our mailing lists up-to-date.

We are sending you this newsletter as it contains important information about the Electoral Commission's work which is relevant to you. The newsletter forms part of the Electoral Commission's public task which has its basis in the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000. We will manage your personal information and contact details in line with the General Data Protection Regulation and UK data protection legislation as outlined in our privacy notice (<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/privacy-notice>)

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, you may [unsubscribe](#) at any time.

Changes to UK Government regulations on face coverings

As part of the UK Government's changes to coronavirus restrictions, the legal requirement to wear face coverings in polling stations and count venues is no longer in place (from 19 July 2021). However, we understand that guidance from the Government will state that face coverings will be recommended and expected where you come into contact with people you don't normally meet, particularly when transmission is likely to be higher due to poor ventilation, crowding, etc.

The legislative changes made ahead of the May 2021 elections in relation to nominations and emergency proxies in the context of COVID-19 remain in place. Should this change, we will update you in a future Bulletin and amend our guidance accordingly.

Public Health England have advised that Returning Officers should continue to liaise with their local director of public health on the practical management of any by-elections in their area.

Our [supplementary guidance from May 2021](#) remains available for your reference and may be helpful in informing your approach to any by-elections in your area.

As always, if you have any questions or would like to discuss any of this further, please do contact your [local Commission team](#).

.....

The Electoral Commission
3 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8YZ
Tel England: 0333 103 1928
Textphone: 18001 020 7271 0500
infoengland@electoralcommission.org.uk
www.electoralcommission.org.uk
© The Electoral Commission 2021