



Ely Folk Festival 2021 is going ahead as it has been planned on the basis of putting in place strict social distancing & covid safety measures. We will need your cooperation and support in complying with the measures we are putting in place, so all can enjoy a safe and fun festival with the great line-up of music planned for this year (details on www.elyfolkfestival.co.uk).

The 2021 festival will be different from previous Ely Folk Festivals; and this note provides an overview of the covid-safe measures that will be put in place and knock-on changes to the festival lay-out and operation to give you as much information as possible before you arrive at the festival so you know what to expect and can plan accordingly.

We are continuing to liaise with council advisors to ensure we deliver a safe festival experience, so there may be further changes – keep an eye on our website for further updates.

Before you arrive at the festival site

Please do not attend the festival if you show symptoms of COVID 19 or have tested positive or have been contacted by the official Track and Trace team up to, and including, 10 days prior to arriving at the festival site and advised to self-isolate. If you develop symptoms, please alert the people with whom you have had close contact over the previous 48 hours who might be attending the festival.

In line with Government Guidance, we encourage all visitors to the festival to complete rapid testing twice in the week before the event with the last test being completed within 48 hours before arrival at the festival site. Government advice also recommends that following the event, twice weekly tests should be completed. See the information at the end of this newsletter about how to get rapid lateral flow tests for free.

If you purchased a ticket for the festival, get in touch with us if you have to cancel your booking due to developing covid symptoms and we will arrange a refund. Refunds can be provided before midnight Tuesday 6th July by contacting our ticket handler The Apex by email (boxoffice@theapex.co.uk) or phone (01284 758000). Any requests for refunds after 6th July will be considered on an individual basis after the festival.

All festival visitors are encouraged to scan the QR code on arrival at the festival site using the NHS Covid 19 app. If you do not have the app on a mobile phone, you will be asked to provide written details on a track & trace form at the box office on the festival site.

If you develop covid-related symptoms after you arrive at the festival site, either alert a steward or make your way to the First Aid station on the festival site.

Please do not arrive before 13.00 on Friday 9th July as the festival site will NOT be open before then, and there is no capacity to safely facilitate queuing outside the festival site.

If you are planning to participate in the yoga sessions, please bring your own mat as the yoga teacher will not be able to provide any mats due to covid restrictions.

There will be no marquees this year, instead we'll have two outdoor stages with socially distanced boxes demarcated in front of the stages. We will not be providing chairs, so bring your own fold-up chair or rug to sit on. With outdoor stages, we'll be more weather dependent than previously, so keep an eye on the weather forecast and come prepared (sun cream, wet-weather gear, umbrella, etc)

Please do observe social distancing while on or moving around the festival site and keep a distance of at least 2m apart from people you do not live with or are outside your support bubble.

Getting to the festival site

The festival site is a 5 minute drive and a 20 minute walk from Ely city centre (via the A10 underpass). A free shuttle bus connects the festival site, city centre and rail station over the festival weekend. The shuttle bus will operate approximately every 15 minutes between the festival site and city centre (and to/from the station on Friday and by request at other times). Buses will run at the following times: Friday 14.00 to 00.30; Saturday 09.30 to 00.30; Sunday 10.00 to 23.30.

On arrival at the festival site

Once you have parked, please make your way to the box office to collect your festival wristband. You must wear your wristband at all times on the festival site; and during the festival you may be asked by stewards and security to show your wristband; if you have no wristband you may be asked to leave the festival site.

Please queue for the box office in a socially distanced manner. The box office staff will pass the wallet of wristbands and passes to the ticket holder. To reduce contact we ask that you attach your own wristband; please put on your wristbands immediately. We will not replace lost wristbands but broken wristbands may be exchanged.

You are encouraged to scan the QR code or complete a track and trace form. If the wristband being collected from the box office was not ordered in your name, please ensure you scan the QR code or fill in a track & trace form, eg if 2 tickets were purchased by Mrs Smith for her and a friend, the friend also needs to scan the QR code or fill in a form when picking up their wristband.

Please register your dog at the box office as usual.

Layout of the festival site

A plan of this year's festival site layout is available on the festival website.

There will be two outdoor stages instead of marquees. We will also use the club room at the football club for workshops, meets and some of the concerts that in previous years we would have hosted in marquee 3 – numbers in this venue will be limited, seating will be at socially distanced tables & you must wear a face covering unless seated at a table.

We will demarcate areas in front of the outdoor stages to accommodate small groups in their own socially distanced 'bubbles'. To compensate for the larger audience area this will result in, we will also use a large relay screen this year to make sure everyone has a great view of the acts on stage. The use of face coverings will not be mandatory while you are seated outdoors where 2m distancing will be maintained.

You will be required to wear face coverings while moving around the site where 2m distance cannot be maintained. Pedestrian routes will be designated around the festival site to enable you to move safely from one area of the festival site to another. Please follow any directional signs around the site. Please respect directions and instructions from our wonderful stewards

Hand sanitising stations will be provided; also 4 hand washing stations with sinks, water and hand gel; and there will be more portaloos available around the site.

The traders' area will be laid out to comply with social distancing guidelines. You are requested to wear a face mask when within the area of a trader stall and follow instructions regarding queuing and maximum numbers inside stalls. You will need to scan a QR code or fill in a track & trace form at the food stalls.

There will be more stewards on hand this year to help with keeping the festival site clean and visitors safe. Please follow any directions they give you.

The bar

We will not have the beer tent this year. But do not panic as we will still have the same great range of beers, wines and non-alcoholic drinks as in previous years for you to purchase. We will organise safe queuing systems for the bar and will be issuing beer tasting notes to enable you to decide which of the beers we have on tap you want to try. Ordering could not be simpler, just choose, order, pay and collect; you are requested to move away from the bar after collection to ensure social distancing and not consume drinks within the bar area. On the plus side, we expect queuing times to be reduced as we are introducing contactless payment at the bar.

Please note that while we encourage visitors to bring their own glasses and tankards to reduce single use plastic waste, due to covid restrictions this year bar staff are required to serve your drinks in a single use plastic glass.

You will be required to scan the QR code when using ordering at the bar. If you do not have the app on a mobile phone, you will be asked to provide written details on a track & trace form.

Music

It's all about the music; and this year you're in for a great treat with the line-up. The range of acts appearing are now posted up on the festival website. There will be sessions, workshops, club tent, & informal artist meets – all socially distanced – please follow stewards' directions.

Please note that another covid-related change we have had to make this year is to move from all soundchecks taking place before a concert starts to each artist sound-checking on stage just before they perform. This means that there will be a gap of about 30 mins between most performances, so a good time to have a chat, get a drink or something to eat, or just listen to the soundchecks.

Dance

Alas, we are unable to hold ceilidhs this year, and the usual morris dance procession around Ely on Saturday morning will not take place. But some of the local morris dance sides will put on socially distanced dance displays on the main stage on Sunday morning.

Children's entertainment

We will have a more limited range of entertainment for younger festival visitors than in previous years; please do follow any directions given by the children's entertainers or stewards in the kids' area. Megson will host a family concert on Sunday afternoon.

...and finally

Ely Folk Festival 2021 is going to be an unusual festival; we are confident it will be a safe, relaxed and music-filled weekend but we will need your cooperation. If you have any specific queries about the festival before the weekend, please email queries@elyfolkfestival.co.uk. If you encounter any problems or issues during the festival itself, please talk to one of our stewards or go to the Festival Control Tent which will be clearly marked on the festival site.

Ely Folk Festival Committee

Rapid Lateral Flow Tests

The test needs to be taken within 48 hours before arrival at the festival site. Lateral flow tests can be ordered free from [Order coronavirus \(COVID-19\) rapid lateral flow tests - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk) or picked up from participating pharmacies – you can check which are participating in your local area [here Find where to get rapid lateral flow tests - NHS \(test-and-trace.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk). If your lateral flow test result is positive or you have symptoms of COVID-19, please do not come to the festival.