



Raphael Pilgrimage response to the Coronavirus Pandemic 2022

Introduction

The first case of Coronavirus was diagnosed in the UK in February 2020. Cases escalated and the Government took action to limit transmission.

Raphael Pilgrimage Trustees, in light of emerging evidence, made the difficult decision to cancel the Pilgrimage in August 2020 and 2021 instead, providing on-line meetings and Pilgrimage for both years. We hope to enjoy an in-person Pilgrimage to Lourdes in 2022.

Raphael 2022 and Covid Guidance

Raphael will continue to follow Government Guidance regarding Coronavirus and protecting our Pilgrims. The Trustees and Heads of Department will:

- Adhere to Government guidelines on Coronavirus from the UK and France using official information provided via:
 - <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/france/coronavirus>
 - [Information Coronavirus - Covid-19 | Gouvernement.fr](https://www.gouvernement.fr/info-coronavirus)
- Do all they can to protect the health and wellbeing of all attending the Pilgrimage to Lourdes, **If still a requirement by the date of travel we will.**
 - Provide PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) of Disposable Apron, Nitrile gloves and FFP2 masks to all who are on-duty in Lourdes or when travelling
 - Ensure that if handwashing facilities are not available supplies of alcohol hand-gel are provided
 - Provide PPE donning and doffing training to all
- Pilgrims will provide evidence of Covid-19 vaccination and a negative Lateral Flow Detection test within 48 hours before travelling if required (This may change according to guidelines nearer the time of travel).
- Unless exempt, all Pilgrims, both helpers (when off duty) and cared for Pilgrims must provide their own appropriate face coverings or masks for use in Lourdes to be worn if guidelines indicate they should be worn or if a personal preference.
- If required at the time of travelling, pilgrims will provide twice weekly Lateral Flow Tests and recorded results on the NHS App.
- All Pilgrims and helpers are required to have travel insurance that supports Covid related issues e.g., positive test or the need to isolate whilst in Lourdes and thereby delaying departure from France and repatriation.



- If anyone tests positive to Covid-19 whilst in Lourdes local guidance will be followed regarding isolation and care.
- 2 Nurses to be identified as volunteers, and one to remain in Lourdes if a member of Raphael tests positive to Covid-19 and needs to isolate.

Guidance

The latest Government Guidance will be followed at all times.

If in the event of an increase in positive cases and the threat of further restrictions or lock-downs the Pilgrimage will be postponed and on-line provision made.

Tracy Ennis

Chair Raphael Trustees 26/06/2022