

THE SOCIETY FOR OLD TESTAMENT STUDY

Covid-19 Guidance for Winter Meeting 4th – 6th January 2022

This guidance reflects the current situation at the beginning of October 2021. It will be kept under review between now and January.

Travelling to the meeting

Anyone who has Covid-19 symptoms at their time of departure from home should not attempt to travel to the meeting.

If you are coming to the meeting from overseas, please make regular checks on the rules that apply for travellers between your country and the UK, since these may change between now and January. These rules may involve COVID testing, vaccinations and/or quarantine regulations. Unfortunately SOTS cannot advise or offer assistance if problems arise because of these provisions.

Up-to-date guidance on regulations governing travel to, from, and within the UK is available at www.gov.uk/coronavirus .

At the meeting

General guidance for the Jubilee Campus

Nottingham falls under government guidelines for England, which may differ from those in Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. At the time of writing (October 2021) social distancing measures are no longer mandatory except in health care settings. However, the University asks us to be respectful and considerate of everyone on campus and to maintain social distancing where appropriate. Similarly, while the wearing of face coverings is no longer compulsory, the government ‘expects and recommends’ that face coverings should be worn in crowded and enclosed spaces. All delegates are asked to follow this recommendation and bring their own face coverings to the meeting, unless they are medically exempt. Hand sanitisers are available at key points across the campus but you may also consider bringing your own supply.

While recognising that our members are able to take such decisions as responsible individuals, SOTS asks all delegates to comply with these requests from Nottingham, not only to protect each other but also to show respect for the support staff who have to deal with us in enclosed spaces (security desk staff, cleaners, catering staff at the servery, etc).

Further information and advice is available at www.nottingham.ac.uk/coronavirus .

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Rooms at Newark Hall

There will be no students resident in Newark Hall over the Christmas vacation and it is likely that there will be no other occupants in hall during our stay (students return the following week). Your room will have been deep cleaned at the end of term and the hall will then have remained closed until the morning of our arrival on 4th January. The individual rooms have windows that open for increased ventilation if you so wish.

Other areas

The Atrium dining area is spacious with a high ceiling and is air-conditioned. Where meals are collected at the servery, which is semi-enclosed, we are encouraged to follow social distancing and to wear face masks (unless exempt) whilst queuing for our food.

The Exchange Lecture Theatre 2 is fully air-conditioned. It was designed to seat 200 people in pre-pandemic days, and so it should be possible to maintain reasonable social distancing. Individuals may of course choose to sit closer together by mutual agreement.

Refreshments breaks and book exhibits will be managed to allow for distancing as appropriate.

What happens if someone develops COVID symptoms during the meeting?

We very much hope that everyone attending will have a healthy and happy time at Nottingham. However, we would like you to know that the University has a well-established protocol for dealing with resident guests who may develop COVID symptoms, or be otherwise advised to isolate during their stay. They will be fully supported throughout the isolation period and will not have to vacate their room until they have recovered. More details of what to do in this case will be given out on registration on 4th January.