



## Lockdown Guidance – January 14, 2021

### General information

Community centres and village halls must close except for a limited number of exempt activities, set out below. As always, the information below is our best understanding at today's date and subject to changes in PHE regulations and Government Guidance.

- All outdoor sports courts and pitches and outdoor gyms have to close
- Supervised out of school activities for children can only serve children entitled to attend school i.e., vulnerable children and children of critical workers. The list of critical workers is wider than that of the Spring 2020 lockdown and now includes, for example, teachers.
- A ban on sale of takeaway alcohol or through click and collect services.

### Activities for which halls may remain open:

- Early years provision and childcare, e.g., Pre-schools and Nurseries
- Education and training – for schools to use sports, leisure, and community facilities where that is part of their normal provision - for children of critical workers and vulnerable children.
- Supervised out of school childcare activities for those children eligible to attend school (i.e., children of critical workers and vulnerable children).
- hosting blood donation sessions and food banks
- to provide medical services, dental treatment (including COVID-19 vaccinations) and veterinary services.
- for elite sports persons to train and compete, and professional dancers and choreographers to work, for disabled sport.
- for training and rehearsal without an audience (as a concert hall)
- for the purposes of film and TV filming
- Support groups that have to be delivered in person can continue with up to 15 participants where formally organised by a business, charitable, benevolent or philanthropic institution or a public body to provide mutual aid, therapy or any other form of support to its members or those who attend.
- People are allowed to leave home for work or providing voluntary or charitable services, where it is unreasonable to do so from home. This includes hall maintenance, meter readings etc.
- Distribution centres operated by businesses are permitted to remain open and halls may therefore be used for e.g., packing by local companies.
- wedding ceremonies may only take place in exceptional circumstances, attended by no more than 6 people.

- Funerals can be attended by a maximum of 30 people. Linked religious, belief-based or commemorative events can also continue with up to 6 people in attendance.
- Voting in an election or referendum
- Essential retail such as Community Shops providing food, newspapers etc., postoffices, pharmacies, nurseries, and garden centres.
- Community cafes and community shops may provide take-away food and nonalcoholic drink.
- Market stalls selling essential retail only.
- Outdoor playgrounds, gardens, recreation fields, allotments.
- Public toilets
- For providing a place of worship

### **Outdoor Gyms and spaces**

Public parks and recreation spaces remain open for personal exercise, including 1:1 personal training, but socialising, picnics etc should not take place and people may only exercise with their household/bubble or, if on their own, with one other person.

Under the National Lockdown both outdoor and indoor gyms must close.

### **Digital access to public services**

Prior to National Lockdown the guidance for Community Facilities had been updated to include reference to tier 4 restrictions. It helpfully confirmed that provision of digital access to public services was permitted (in the list of exemptions in Section 3 which refers to essential voluntary and public services). We will check as to whether this is carried forward to National Lockdown.

### **Private providers of coronavirus testing**

The list of approved suppliers of private testing kits is available here: [List of private providers of coronavirus testing.](#)

### **Management of remote meetings**

The Charity Commission published new guidance before Christmas at [Coronavirus \(COVID19\) guidance for the charity sector](#). ACRE's Network Advisers can be consulted to determine how an individual hall should best proceed. The Local Government Association have on their website a hub with contributions from sector representative organisations providing advice and support with the management of remote meetings.

### **Financial Support**

The financial support package announced by the Chancellor on 5 January comprises two elements, and most community halls and similar facilities (e.g., CASCs, Community Amateur Sports clubs, church halls) should be eligible for one or the other.

For premises and businesses which are legally required to close and cannot operate effectively remotely, there will be a one-off top up grant as follows:

- £4,000 for businesses with a rateable value of £15,000 or under
- £6,000 for businesses with a rateable value between £15,000 and £51,000
- £9,000 for businesses with a rateable value of over £51,000.

As with the £10K RHL Grant of Spring 2020, this should be automatic for eligible premises, (i.e., those with a rateable value of their own which are required to close).

In addition, a **£594 million discretionary fund** is also being made available to support other impacted businesses. This should be available to faith premises such as church halls, which do not have a rateable value, and in the event that a local authority determines a hall is not eligible for the above grant.

The Local Restrictions Support Grant (LRSG (Closed)) supports businesses required to close because of temporary local measures. The LRSG (Closed) (Addendum) supports businesses that were required to close due to national lockdown between 5 November and 2 December. Government guidance reflects the fact that all businesses required to close when Tier 4 restrictions were applied are eligible for grants of up to £1,500 for each 14-day period of closure; these grants are being administered by local authorities and the above new financial package is in addition to these. Check eligibility for the [coronavirus Local Restrictions Support Grant \(for closed businesses\)](#)

## Use of halls for COVID-19 vaccination.

Halls in some areas are already being used for vaccination. If halls wish to offer facilities they should contact [local directors of public health](#) or GP surgeries and explain:

- they are able to open in compliance with COVID-19 secure guidelines using up to date information supplied by ACRE
- the payment needed to cover heating, lighting, and cleaning costs, given that one the one hand income has been disrupted because of the pandemic and, on the other, eligibility or otherwise for Government financial support packages.

## Other links:

- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-multi-purpose-community-facilities/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-multi-purpose-community-facilities>