

Community groups Covid-19 toolkit March 2021 update

This guidance will continue to be updated as we progress through the [government roadmap](#). People should volunteer from home until 29 March 2021 unless the service offered is **essential** and cannot be delivered from home, or the service can be delivered in line with current restrictions and incorporated into recreation and exercise outdoors with their household or support bubble; for example, lone litter picking or litter picking with members of your household (or support bubble), or with one other person from a different household. Further Government volunteering guidance can be found [here](#).

Outdoor gatherings of either 6 people or 2 households with appropriate social distancing will be permitted from 29 March 2021 providing key tests are met, when the guidance changes from 'stay at home' to 'minimize travel'. If key tests are met, non-essential outdoor activities, such as group litter picking can recommence in groups of up to 6 people or 2 households from 29 March 2021. Organised outdoor sports can also resume at this stage.

Indoor facilities including gyms, leisure centres and community centres for use individually or with household groups and indoor sporting activities for children will be able to commence no earlier than 12 April 2021. The earliest stage where organised indoor sports, exercise classes and indoor events will be able to return is 17 May 2021. The toolkit below aims to assist groups volunteer safely once restrictions allow. Any specific questions should be directed to publichealth@wiltshire.gov.uk.

1. Complete a Covid-19 secure Risk Assessment (RA)

- A Covid-19 secure RA must be completed prior to return. Guidance can be found by clicking [here](#).
- The results of the risk assessment must be shared with volunteers and displayed on your website.
- RA's do not need to be returned to Wiltshire Council for sign off.

2. Continuously monitor public health (PH) COVID-19 information and guidance

- Guidance adjusts frequently, consider signing up to government updates [here](#).
- General government guidance can be found [here](#).
- Multi-purpose community facilities guidance can be found [here](#).
- National and local Covid-19 statistics can be found [here](#).
- Current R values can be found [here](#).
- Wiltshire's local outbreak management plan (LOMP) can be found [here](#).
- Community and volunteer support can be accessed [here](#).

3. Employ a booking and record keeping system

- Volunteers should book attendance in advance to ensure the venue can honor social distancing.
- To assist NHS Test and Trace keep a temporary record of those attending groups for 21 days. Information on how to do this can be found [here](#).

4. Communicate key messages and instructions prior to arrival

- Make all members aware that if they are symptomatic, or a member of their household is symptomatic they must follow stay at home guidance which can be found [here](#).
- Information about Covid-19 symptoms can be found [here](#).
- If someone is symptomatic encourage them to get tested. Testing information can be found [here](#).
- Prior to their arrival, communicate that strict adherence to social distancing of 2 metres or 1 metre with risk mitigation (where 2 metres is not viable) is required. Social distancing guidance can be found [here](#).
- Cascade guidance surrounding hand washing and hygiene prior to groups returning. Guidance about this can be found [here](#). Include information about the use of face coverings where appropriate. Guidance on when to wear them and how to make them can be found [here](#).
- Ensure members are clear about all procedures, and what is required upon arrival and exit where appropriate prior to their arrival.

- 5. Perform Virtual Health checks and have suspected/confirmed case action plan**
 - Consider virtual health checks prior to people attending via phone, text or email to establish whether they are symptomatic, and if anyone in their household/support bubble is symptomatic.
 - If symptomatic, or living with anyone symptomatic or someone within their support bubble is symptomatic they must not attend the group, and must follow stay at home guidance found [here](#).
 - Identify prior to arrival whether group members are living with anyone extremely or clinically vulnerable. Additional precautions may be required to mitigate risk to these people, for example consider how will you reduce the transmission risk between group members, and between others they need to interact with i.e. avoidance of non-essential contact, social distancing rules, personal hygiene protocols, splitting groups into bubbles/pods. Shielding information can be found [here](#).
 - Currently, people do not need to self-isolate unless they're contacted by the NHS Test and Trace service. Information about the Test and Trace service can be found [here](#).

 - 6. Have clear handwashing and hygiene procedures**
 - Settings should develop clear cleaning, and hand hygiene procedures especially before and after activity takes place. Further guidance can be found [here](#) within section 2b.
 - Consider displaying handwashing posters which can be found [here](#).
 - Consider providing hand sanitiser around venues, in addition to washrooms. Further guidance on which hand sanitiser to use can be found [here](#).

 - 7. Cleaning**
 - Create an enhanced cleaning schedule which incorporates frequent cleaning and disinfecting objects and surfaces that are touched regularly such as door handles and light switches.
 - Consider enhanced cleaning of busy areas. Cleaning guidance can be found [here](#).
 - Set clear use and cleaning guidance for toilets and consider additional handwashing signage.
 - Provide hand drying facilities – either paper towels or electrical dryers.
 - If you are cleaning after a known or suspected case of Covid-19 then you should refer to specific guidance explained at the bottom of the information [here](#).

 - 8. Plan how you will maintain 2m social distancing where possible.**
 - Guidance on social distancing and capacity can be found in section 2a [here](#).
 - Consider signage to remind people of social distancing guidance.
 - Avoid sharing equipment.
 - Consider using floor tape or paint to mark areas to help people keep to a 2m distance.
 - Arrange one-way traffic through venues if possible.
 - Open doors and windows where appropriate to maintain good ventilation.
- Where 2m is not possible apart, you should do everything practical to manage transmission risk by:
- Considering whether an activity needs to continue. If so, keep activity time as short as possible.
 - Using screens or barriers to separate people from each other
 - Using back-to-back or side-to-side working whenever possible.
 - Staggering arrival and departure times.
 - Reducing the number of people each person has contact with by using pods/bubbles.
 - If you are ever required to be within 2m of someone, for example when delivering personal care, reference guidance on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) found [here](#)
- 9. Be scam vigilant**
 - Be vigilant and aware of scams relating to Covid-19. Further information can be found [here](#).

 - 10. Utilise Wiltshire community contacts**
 - Local area coordinators support people in their local community, find further information [here](#).
 - Community Engagement Managers support and empower local communities. Email AreaBoards@wiltshire.gov.uk for further information.