

Update 3: Reopening of Village Halls

Rise in COVID-19 cases

In just three weeks, the number of Coronavirus (COVID-19) cases in Scotland has risen three-fold. This follows similar or worse rises elsewhere in the UK and across Europe. As such, some new measures have been brought in (see below).

New rules on social gatherings

The number of people who can meet socially indoors or outdoors has been reduced. From 14 September social gatherings are limited to a maximum of just six people, and they should come from no more than two households.

This applies in people's homes and gardens as well as in all hospitality venues, and public spaces such as parks. However, children under 12, from within the two households, do not count towards the 6-person limit. Also, if you have formed an extended household with a single adult living alone (again, children are not counted), then they still count as your household.

For village halls this means that should any users wish to run a hospitality style event, such as a coffee morning, then tables will have to be made up of two, rather than three households; and limited to 6 people.

Non-sporting gatherings and events

Public gatherings, inside or outside, are still prohibited except for some specific reasons. Here are some non-sporting gatherings, activities and events that *are* currently allowed:

- where the gathering is for childcare, education or training
- where the gathering is for work purposes, or for the provision of voluntary or charitable services - but individuals should try to minimise all meetings and other gatherings in the workplace.
- where the gathering is to avoid injury, illness or to escape a risk of harm
- where the gathering is to access public services
- to take part in organised exercise
- to take part in organised activities, indoor or outdoor, for those aged under 18 (e.g. scouts or brownies) but not soft play.
- where the gathering is to provide care or assistance to a vulnerable person

- where the gathering is to provide emergency or medical assistance
- where the gathering is to donate blood

Note: This information is taken from the Scottish Government's rules on [staying safe and protecting others](#) (updated 10 September 2020 under Phase 3 of the Route Map): In all cases, physical distancing, hand washing and surface cleaning still applies; and depending upon the situation (e.g. inside a village hall) face coverings will also be required. Some activities, such as [organised activities for children](#), are subject to additional guidelines.

Indoor sports and dance

It was hoped that indoor contact sports, dance studios and skating would be allowed from 14 September. However, the indicative date for these activities has now been put back to 5 October. As such, you will be unable to allow any such activities to be held in your village hall until at least that date.

For the reopening of non-contact sport, which is now permitted, Sport Scotland has published operational guidance on getting facilities fit for sport. There are specific documents for Gyms and for Sports Courts. Please see the [Sport Scotland website](#).

Soft play

Like contact sports, re-starting of this form of activity has been delayed until at least 5 October.

Protect Scotland App

The Protect Scotland app from NHS Scotland's Test and Protect is a free, mobile phone app. It will alert you if you have been in close contact with another app user who tests positive for coronavirus. Also, if you test positive, it can help in determining contacts that you may have otherwise missed while keeping your information private and anonymous. Details can be found at www.protect.scot

Posters and Guidance

There are a number of useful posters and guidance documents on the Bavs [village Halls website page](#).

As all guidance is subject to change as we respond to the pandemic, you are advised to check regularly with the Scottish Government website for the most up to date information: [Coronavirus in Scotland](#).