

Village Halls

Organised Activities for Children

Updated 26 April 2021

Introduction

This guidance is for village halls that wish to permit indoor organised activities (non-statutory) for children during the pandemic. It is also aimed at those supervising such activities, so please pass this on to users as appropriate. That said, government advice is that, “when considering indoor activity, other delivery options should continue to be fully considered at this time, including outdoor and on-line activity which minimises contacts and reduce risks of transmission.”

It is applicable to Scotland’s protection levels 2 and 3.

General requirements

All organisers of children’s activities must operate within and comply with the health and safety measures set out in the village hall’s COVID-19 risk assessment. Organisers must ensure that their volunteers (and staff where applicable) have been made aware of the safety expectations; and can safely carry out the safety measures required of them. Induction should be provided to

- help demonstrate commitment to taking the risks of COVID-19 seriously.
- build confidence that volunteers/staff, children and parents will be safe.
- reinforce responsibilities.

Good communication between organisers and the village hall; and between organisers and the children’s parents/carers, is essential.

Risk Assessment

While the village hall will have a risk assessment covering the premises and general aspects of the hall’s use, the organiser should also assess any risks that are presented by the very nature of the activities they are planning to run; and share with the village hall details of the safety control measures that they will be applying.

Attention must be given to how physical distance will be maintained, face coverings, personal hygiene, ventilation, waste disposal and cleaning of surfaces and equipment after use.

Test and Protect

Names of the children attending, together with contact details for their parent/guardian should be provided by the organiser to the village hall, together with the group start and finish time. It is advisable for the hall to display an official Test and Protect poster within the premises (downloadable from the [Bavs village halls](#) website page). This explains the purpose and also provides the relevant privacy notice.

Face coverings

Village halls are classed as community venues, along with community centres, community hubs, youth centres and similar public facilities. As such, the wearing of face coverings is mandatory (except when exercising, when seated for the consumption of food or drink, and in certain settings involving children – see below).

Size of groups

Organised children's activities are a permitted form of gathering so are not subject to the same rules on individual households. For organised indoor activities, the maximum size of any group, of all ages including adults, is 10; and from a maximum of 10 households. No more than five adults can be present. (However, there is an exception for under 5s – see below). The group facilitator does not count towards the overall numbers.

If the hall size or room layout (e.g. tables, chairs and equipment) is such that adults and children aged 12 or older are unable to maintain 2 metre physical distance, then you should limit numbers further (children under age 12 are not subject to physical distancing). Other considerations affecting group size may be the specific needs of the children and the age of the children concerned. If demand for activities is high, then consideration should be given to running additional groups at different times.

Under 5s

All the above general guidance still applies to Under 5s, Toddler and Baby groups. However, under 5s do not count towards overall numbers, so the maximum number of parents who can attend a group is 10. (Note: The group facilitator also does not count towards numbers). However, all this is only possible if:

- Physical distancing can be maintained by all adults
- Face coverings are worn, except when seated (excluding under 5's).
- Where group attendees (including facilitators) are, as far as possible, regulars (i.e. do not change often).
- Where the group can comply with all the hall's COVID-19 safety measures.
- The frequency and duration of the activity is kept to a minimum; and other blended options (outdoor, digital) are considered.

Play

Outdoor play remains the preferred option. However, all toys and equipment that children access during indoor activities should be cleaned when groups of children change – e.g. between sessions and at the end of the day or in the morning before the session begins using standard detergent and disinfectant that are active against viruses and bacteria.

Soft toys should also be removed or washed after use by each child/cohort. Alternatively, the group can ask that soft toys are not used. **Please note that soft play equipment should also not be used at this time.**

Sport and Exercise

Children aged 17 and under can exercise and play sports, including contact sports, indoors. However, the limits on group size above will still apply.

Please note that organised sport also has to comply with guidance set by the appropriate sport's governing body. Details can be found on the [Sport Scotland](#) website.

Other Activities

Activities such as Brownies, Scouts and similar can take place within the limits on group size; and provided all the appropriate safety measures are followed according to hall and organiser's risk assessments.

The Government has advised that children should not engage in drama, singing or playing wind and brass instruments at this time.

Food and drink

It is not recommended that food and drink be consumed during activities. However, if halls allow use of kitchen areas, then parents and volunteers should bring their own cups/cutlery. Surfaces in kitchen areas should be cleaned and disinfected in between each use. Sharing of food or drink prepared at home should not take place.

Indoor children's parties should not take place at this time.

Note

The above information applies to supervised activities for children that are **not** regulated by the Care Inspectorate or other registration body. Nor does it apply to health professional-led work delivered in a health care setting. For further information, please see the Scottish Government's guidance [Organised Activities for Children](#)

Separate official guidance is available for organisations providing services to the [youth work sector](#) or [community learning and development](#).