

Reopening Village Halls: Update 7 April 2021

## Timetable for Easing Coronavirus Restrictions

### Introduction

The Scottish Government is proceeding with its cautious easing of lockdown restrictions, the full timetable for which is available as a [pdf download](#) from the government website. Below is a summary of indicative dates that will be of use to village halls.

### Currently

Village halls can open only for the delivery of essential services.

### From April 26

The following activities can open/start:

- social mixing in indoor public places (but not private homes) can begin;
- indoor hospitality without alcohol (max. groups of 4 from 2 households)
- non-essential childcare
- shops, stores and close contact services
- libraries, museums and galleries
- Individual exercise in gyms

This means in theory that a village hall could open for activities such as a coffee morning (subject to maximum group size of 4 people from 2 households per table), individual gym training, or a display of arts and crafts.

In all cases, adults and children aged 12 and above must observe social distancing and wear face coverings (unless seated and consuming food or drink). Group size at activities (other than individual exercise) must be no larger than 4 people from 2 households.

## From 17 May

The following activities can open/start:

- Non-professional performance arts outdoors
- Indoor hospitality with alcohol
- Small scale indoor events
- Cinemas and bingo
- Indoor group exercise

This would enable some additional activities, such as bingo, a film night and yoga classes (or similar). Again, all would be subject to the usual safety measures and further government guidance for e.g. indoor events.

## Early June

There is no specific date yet, but we can expect to see an increase in group size for social mixing indoors to 6 people from 3 households. Indoor non-contact sport will also resume, so village halls will be able to take bookings for badminton and table tennis. It is also hoped that soft play can be resumed.

## Planning for your reopening

It makes sense to begin planning your reopening; and we recommend the following steps:

1. Consult stakeholders and any staff/volunteers normally involved in village hall arrangements; and set provisional reopening dates for the activities you can allow.
2. Review your existing COVID-19 risk assessment or carry out a new one. This is a key step; and we have produced guidance and a template to help with this
3. Introduce COVID-19 control measures arising from the risk assessment.
4. Display staying safe information (e.g. the official FACTS poster)
5. Put up *Test and Protect* posters to inform users of the need to collect personal details. The official poster includes a privacy statement to comply with data protection law.
6. Agree changes to hiring arrangements in light of steps 2 and 3, setting out criteria for bookings, use of equipment, acceptable activities, reporting of problems etc

7. Establish a procedure to monitor and review the adherence to and suitability of control measures. This might be through a users' feedback form, a phone call to users, or your own observations.
8. Investigate any accidents and reported breaches of COVID-19 control measures; and use this to improve control measures and/or hiring criteria.

## Resources

Bavs has produced a range of guidance documents for use by village halls. These are available on the Bavs website, together with links to official posters and other useful resources.

All documents will be reviewed at regular intervals and updated as needed.

Individual halls can also ask specific questions via the Bavs website.

