

Hi everyone

The 19th July is almost upon us and I thought I should share with you how we see the Covid rule changes affecting what we do in the hall.

In summary all legal restrictions will be removed but the government is still encouraging caution and what were rules are now guidance. From 19th July the following changes will be made to the legal rules

- * All limits on social contact will be removed (currently groups of 6 people or 2 households indoors, or 30 people outdoors).
- * Music concerts, sporting events, singing and dancing can resume without any limits on attendance or social distancing requirements.
- * All restrictions on life events will be removed such as weddings, funerals, and baptisms. There will be no requirement for table service or restrictions on singing or dancing.
- * The legal requirements to wear a face covering will be lifted in all settings. Guidance will advise that wearing a face covering will reduce your risk and the risk to others, where you come into contact with people you don't normally meet in enclosed and crowded spaces, so use of face coverings will remain advisable in confined spaces such as toilets, kitchens and corridors and at more crowded events.
- * Social distancing rules will be lifted (2 metres or 1 metre with additional mitigations). However, the risks of close contact with others should be considered, particularly if clinically extremely vulnerable or not yet fully vaccinated.
- * Table service restrictions, and distancing between tables, will be lifted for hospitality venues. Guidance will be updated to provide examples of sensible precautions to be taken in risk assessing the situation.
- * Test and Trace will be retained and continued display of QR codes will be advised. The advice for individuals to get a test if advised to do so and self-isolate if tested positive remains key to reducing transmission.

The rules are being replaced by the following guidance :-

1. Meeting in well-ventilated areas where possible, such as outdoors or indoors with windows open.
2. Wearing a face covering where you come into contact with people you don't normally meet in enclosed and crowded spaces.
3. Washing your hands with soap and water or using hand sanitiser regularly throughout the day.
4. Covering your nose and mouth when you cough and sneeze.
5. Staying at home if unwell, to reduce the risk of passing on other illnesses onto friends, family, colleagues, and others in your community.
6. Considering individual risks, such as clinical vulnerabilities and vaccination status

At this stage we do not plan to make any changes to the running of the hall. We will leave the posters up, leave the hand sanitiser in place and continue with the current cleaning regime. It will be the responsibility of hirers to assess how best to apply the rule changes and guidance for their particular activities and user's needs and attitudes. We recommend that you continue to clean surfaces, request face masks be worn especially when arriving and leaving, continue to clean hands, maintain suitable social distancing or put in place mitigating measures where that is not possible and generally be aware of your user's vulnerabilities and concerns. Not everyone will yet feel comfortable being in a crowded, unventilated space. Also remember that with Covid still spreading (mainly through younger members of the population) double vaccinated older folk are still at higher risk of serious illness or death from Covid than the unvaccinated young.

Also note that the Test and Trace system will remain in place and you must keep a record of attendees or ensure they use the QR code with the app.

Finally if you are made aware of having a user in the hall who turns out had covid please let us know as soon as possible as before.

I hope that is all clear and that you are able to enjoy full and safe use of the hall. If anything changes we will of course let you know.

Kind regards

Simon

Simon Tomlinson