

COVID-19: Guidance for community venues and village halls

General Guidance:

If somebody develops [symptoms](#) of coronavirus they should follow Government [guidance](#) by self-isolating at home and accessing a test. They should not be attending community centres or village halls for any activities. If somebody has been identified as a contact by NHS Test & Trace they should also be self-isolating and should not attend any activities. Please consider a procedure for managing a visitor who becomes unwell with coronavirus.

Please keep up to date with Government guidance on [what we can and can't do](#).

Encourage any residents or visitors to access testing if symptomatic by referring to the Herefordshire Council Website [Testing for Covid-19 | Stay home stay safe | Herefordshire Council](#). For those residents who have no internet access testing can be arranged by calling 119. The Herefordshire Council Talk Community COVID response will continue to support vulnerable individuals throughout this time and can be contacted via email Talkcommunitycovidresponse@herefordshire.gov.uk or telephone 01432 260027.

If there is a confirmed positive case in your community centre or if you wish to share local information relevant to social distancing adherence then please inform the Outbreak Control Hub by emailing OutbreakControlHub@herefordshire.gov.uk this will help us support communities and also understand – and contain – any spread of the virus across Herefordshire.

Working and volunteering safely:

Re-opening plans should be consistent with public health guidance regarding health, hygiene and social distancing in addition to safe workplace guidelines. Please refer to the Action for Communities in Rural England (ACRE) [guidance](#) for in-depth advice and support in all aspects of community centre and village hall re-opening.

Assessing the risk associated with particular venues and activities can be done by using the following resources:

[Sample risk assessment](#) for village halls and community centres

[Sample risk assessment for hirers](#)

HSE [guidance](#) on conducting a coronavirus risk assessment.

We advise that you read the general guidance on [working safely](#) during coronavirus, and as there is a wide variety of activities due to be undertaken across Herefordshire in community centres, to also refer to the specific guidance for your setting:

- [Multi-purpose community facilities](#)
- [Outdoor play areas](#)
- [Grassroots sport and leisure facilities](#)
- [Early years and childcare settings](#)- this can be applied to nurseries and wraparound childcare, before and after schools clubs and holiday clubs.

(Document created 03/08/2020- always check guidance for further updates)

For further advice and support please contact ehtscommercialsru@herefordshire.gov.uk, or the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) <https://www.hse.gov.uk/contact/index.htm>.

Social distancing

Venues should ensure that there is adherence to social distancing of 2 metres or 1 metre with risk mitigation (where 2m is not viable) and good hand hygiene when visiting these spaces. Please refer to guidance on [multi-purpose community facilities](#) for more information on COVID-secure measures and sizes of gatherings permitted.

NHS Test and Trace

All groups are asked to assist NHS Test and Trace by keeping a temporary record of who attends for 21 days and to provide that data to NHS Test and Trace if needed. (It is not compulsory for people to provide information but could help contain outbreaks.) Guidance on [how to put this in place](#).

Cleaning

All surfaces which are frequently touched should be cleaned regularly using standard cleaning products. A decision will need to be made on how frequently cleaning should take place, based on an assessment of risk, and use of the building. Additional guidance for cleaning of non-healthcare settings can be found [here](#).

[Poster](#) for cleaning hands effectively- this can be displayed in bathroom and kitchen facilities

[Video](#) on how best to wash your hands

Additional resources

[Poster](#) certifying that a setting has taken steps to make the area COVID-secure

[Poster](#) 'Catch it Bin it Kill it'

[Resources](#) for 'Talking with your workers about COVID-19'

Guidance for use of [face coverings](#)