

Coronavirus: Information for Village Halls & Community Buildings – March 2020

Coronavirus precautions

Village Hall Management Committees running charitable halls must act in the best interest of the hall charity and managers of all halls are responsible for providing a safe facility for the use of the community.

Older people and people with underlying health issues are at more risk so committees do need to take extra precautions to ensure halls remain safe places for them to meet, because these groups tend to benefit most from activities which reduce loneliness and isolation.

Common sense precautions include:

- Take notice of the Government and Public Health England websites (see below) and keep up to date with the ongoing situation.
- Keep the Hall very clean and ensure that soap and/or hand sanitiser is available, paper towels are available and hand driers are working efficiently.
- Avoid the use of hand towels for the time being.
- Put up a notice about hand washing, particularly in toilets and kitchen areas.
- Advise hirers that they are expected to act responsibly and take notice of Government and Public Health England advice which includes who is and isn't allowed to be in public spaces.
- Regarding cancellation of any bookings follow the steps in their hiring agreement.
- Check with insurers about loss of income clauses.

Public Health England have produced a range of sample posters, and it would be wise to use one of these as the basis for putting on the front door a poster asking people who have recently been to one of the affected areas and who have possible Coronavirus symptoms not to come into the hall.

Further resources can be found at: [PHE Resources](#).

Current advice (early March) is that the only people who need to stay away from public places are people who have been:

- to Hubei province in China in the last 14 days
- to Iran, areas of northern Italy in lockdown or "special care zone" areas in South Korea since 19 February
- to other parts of mainland China, Thailand, Japan, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia or Macau in the last 14 days and have a cough, high temperature or shortness of breath
- to other parts of northern Italy (anywhere north of Pisa, Florence and Rimini), Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos or Myanmar since 19 February and have a cough, high temperature or shortness of breath
- in close contact with someone with confirmed coronavirus

The following sites may also be helpful:

- [Public Health England's guidance for a range of sectors](#)
- [NHS advice on reducing risk](#)

- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): latest information and advice](#)
- [Common questions](#)
- [What to do if you're asked to self-isolate](#)