

Questions and Answers from the RCC Re-opening your Village Hall Webinar

3rd July 2020

Please note that the answers provided by the RCC to questions posed by webinar delegates are based on an interpretation of current government guidance. We strongly recommend that you refer to the latest Government Guidance available from www.gov.uk

Question or comment	RCC response	Further information
Is there a dedicated RCC web page for Covid-19 info	Yes, we update our web pages regularly.	http://www.ruralcc.org.uk/covid-19/
Type of face covering ? We were told by a nurse at Derby Royal that the blue masks only protect other people from the people wearing it ...	Current guidance is that clinical PPE face coverings are not required for general use. This initially came from the shortage threatened with the NHS. Government have confirmed that homemade coverings are appropriate for use as well as the paper ones now widely available. Masks are most likely to protect others rather than the wearer, but they do have a role in slowing the spread of the virus.	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-to-wear-and-make-a-cloth-face-covering/how-to-wear-and-make-a-cloth-face-covering
LRALC advise that physical council meetings are still illegal.	Yes, guidance from LRALC is that Parish Councils should not be meeting at present.	https://www.leicestershireandrutlandalc.gov.uk/
We had been running a falls programme and seated exercise sessions prior to lockdown. Which is for over 65's would	This is a really good question, and one we would like to get you some confirmation of. Our initial thoughts is that it would be	

<p>you say these fall under the fitness and exercise exclusion?</p>	<p>an acceptable activity, subject to social distancing etc, as it clearly has a health benefit.</p> <p>Subject to appropriate levels of social distancing we would suggest this should be considered a health-related programme rather than being seen as an exercise class. In our opinion, it would be an eligible activity. However significant consideration would need to be given to the age group, and whether it would be sensible to continue.</p>	
<p>Do Centres with less than 5 employees require a written risk assessment? My understanding is they don't.</p>	<p>In normal times, somewhere with less than 5 employees may not need to undertake an assessment in law, however during the current situation we would advise that any employer, and certainly any community building undertakes one.</p>	
<p>Do we need to undertake a fogging deep clean before we open with certification visible for users?</p>	<p>Fogging deep cleans are not specified as a requirement for you to become Covid-19 Secure. However, if your risk assessment shows up cleanliness as a high risk you may want to consider it.</p>	
<p>With regard to cleaning - how to ensure its been done by hirers and the volunteers who were doing cleaning now don't want it put themselves at risk. Can we employ a cleaner?</p>	<p>Yes, you can employ a cleaner, especially if you think this would help ensure suitable levels of cleaning are done. Policing user cleaning is difficult and involves a level of trust and collective responsibility.</p>	
<p>Is there a list of recommended cleaning products anywhere?</p>	<p>There isn't a specific list. Normal household cleaning products as well as commercial products would be suitable.</p>	

<p>Then there is the difficult matter on insurance!</p>	<p>We have not had any confirmed cases of insurers refusing to cover existing customers. However, many are stressing that you must be following Government guidelines.</p>	
<p>You briefly mentioned youth groups. often the whole enjoyment for the youngsters is running round and being in close contact with each other. If we were to re-open, would we still be expected to maintain the distancing as the regulations - and if so then it may not be feasible to re-open.</p>	<p>Social distancing rules apply to all age groups.</p>	
<p>FYI, Scout groups have to follow The Scout Association guidelines. This is being led by the National Youth Agency. I've been on several webinars - our rules are going to be stricter than sports clubs by all accounts.</p>		<p>https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/scouts-at-home/getting-everyone-back-together-safely/</p>
<p>I set up a village website for Thornton 2 years ago to cover everything going on in the village especially the village hall and I regularly publish information from RCC and H&BBC. This is due for renewal this month is there any funding available to keep this website going?</p>	<p>We would recommend the HBBC community grant.</p>	<p>https://www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/info/200335/funding_for_community_projects</p>
<p>Why can other groups meet when a Parish Council cannot?</p>	<p>The RCC isn't able to offer specific procedural guidance for the, we always defer to LRALC who are the experts.</p>	<p>https://www.leicestershireandrutlandalc.gov.uk/</p>
<p>All our committee are in the vulnerable group either through age or health issues. I's going to be hard to even draw up a risk assessment.</p>	<p>We would suggest that committees consider very carefully undertaking any activities that would put their trustees at</p>	

	risk. Remember, halls are under no obligation to open at the present time.	
We have a playgroup wanting to restart sessions in September in our large hall - the children will be under 4 years old is there anything specific that needs to be put in place to allow this?	Re-opening for a playgroup should be fine - we have some specific guidance on playgroups and preschool.	https://acre.org.uk/cms/resources/press-releases//guidance-opening-halls-for-pre-school-use-02.06.20.pdf
Would a children's drama group count as a live performance?	No, we don't think that a drama group would count as a live performance unless of course they were giving a performance. If they were rehearsing etc and suitability distanced, we would think this would be OK.	
Is there any guidance for user groups to help them to write a written risk assessment? It's a big ask of some very small groups	one of the appendices is a risk assessment for users.	http://www.ruralcc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/COVID-19-Information-Sheet-Opening-your-hall-after-lockdown-4.7.20-Final.pdf