

Organised activity

One reason you may leave your home and see other people is to participate in an organised activity. These activities must be organised by a responsible body, who must take certain steps prior to the activity (see below). Examples of organised activities could include team sports, support groups, youth work and drama classes.

During these activities, people can gather from a mix of households only where there is sufficient space to undertake the activity as safely as possible. People should remain physically distanced from others outside of their household.

The organiser of the activity is responsible for completing a risk assessment. Both the organiser of the activity and the people in charge of the premises (if different) are responsible for putting in place **all reasonable measures** to prevent infection and the spread of coronavirus. This means they should be taking steps to ensure physical distancing and limiting face to face interaction, and **improved hygiene** (such as cleaning and sharing of equipment, hand washing and respiratory hygiene and so on). Where possible, the use of outdoor space and on-line delivery of activities should be considered.

Rules on organised activities

Organised activities are permitted as long as the following rules are followed to prevent the spread of infection:

- The activity must be organised by a business, public body or charitable institution, club, political organisation or national governing body of a sport or other activity.
- A risk assessment must be completed and must take in to account the number of people that can be safely take part, regardless of any maximum limits allowed by law.
- Activities should only be organised outdoors or in premises where measures can be put in place to keep people as safe as possible. This includes, but is not limited to, premises such as community centres and leisure centres. Licensed premises, such as pubs, can also be used but must not involve alcohol as part of the activity.
- The organiser of the activity should remain present for the duration of the activity.
- People should only gather to take part in the activity and should not gather before or after.
- Activity organisers and people in charge of the premises where the activity is taking place must ensure that **reasonable measures** are in place to minimise risk of exposure to coronavirus, including maintaining a two metre distance between people if they are not part of the same household where possible.
- **Face coverings** must be worn by all staff and participants aged 11 and over when indoors, unless they have a reasonable excuse not to wear one or to

remove one temporarily or are exempted from doing so. Please visit our guidance on face coverings to see more information on the people who do not need to wear face coverings and the circumstances in which they can be removed.

- Singing, chanting, shouting or the use of wind instruments are considered to be high risk activities and should generally be avoided, especially indoors, even where physical distancing and face coverings are used. If these do take place, the organisers of the activity must take extensive mitigating actions, otherwise they may be failing to meet their statutory duty to take **all reasonable measures** to prevent the spread of coronavirus. Guidance covering **rehearsing, performing and taking part in the performing arts** has now been published. Other guidance such as that for **tourism and hospitality** or **places of worship** will be relevant depending on the activity and the setting.

Organised activities must not:

- Involve the sale or consumption of alcohol
- Take place in people's homes or gardens

Unless the activities are specifically aimed at children's development or wellbeing (see below section), a maximum of 15 people are able to participate in organised activities if they are indoors, or 30 people if they are outdoors. In both cases this does not include any children under 11, or the event organiser(s) and anyone working or volunteering to facilitate the activity. These are maximum numbers and not targets. While we recognise the potential welfare benefits these activities provide, the more people that gather, the greater the risk of coronavirus transmission.

There is no fixed limit on the number of children aged under 11 that can participate in organised activities. However, both the organiser of the activity and the people in charge of the premises where the activity is taking place (if different) are responsible for completing a risk assessment and putting in place **all reasonable measures** to prevent infection and the spread of coronavirus. This may limit the number of people who can safely take part.

Children

The rules on meeting people indoors apply to children as well as adults. So it is still not generally permitted for children to go into someone else's home unless you have formed an **extended household**, or bubble, with them.

In circumstances where young children mix with others, it may not be practical to attempt to maintain 2 metre distancing (between children, or even between children and adults). This is in part because it is harder for younger children to understand the concept of physical distancing, and in part because appropriate support from carers will often require closer contact.

Young children under 11 are also not included in any legal numerical limits on sizes of gatherings, because studies have found that young children are less likely to transmit the virus, whether to other children or to adults, and the virus appears to take a milder course in children than in adults for most cases. This will also allow parents with larger numbers of children to meet with other adults more easily.

However, as young children can still transmit the virus, parents of young children should still exercise their good judgement, take care and encourage their children to follow hand hygiene measures and keep close contact to a minimum wherever possible. Even with children it is safer to meet in smaller numbers, and to meet the same people regularly rather than a range of different people.

In other settings, the number of children who can gather together is constrained by the size of the setting and the need for a sufficient number of adults to be present to supervise.

Organised activities for children

Organised activities for children are any activities for the development or wellbeing of children arranged and supervised by a responsible body - for example, a business, public body, charity or club. This could include children's sports, music classes, parent and toddler groups and recreational activities. It also includes activities provided outside of school hours and during school holidays. To repeat, the purpose of the activity should be the development and wellbeing of children.

These activities for children are permitted as long as the following rules are followed to limit the spread of infection:

- Activities should only be organised outdoors or in premises where measures can be put in place to keep people as safe as possible. This includes, but is not limited to, premises such as community centres and leisure centres. Licensed premises, such as pubs, can also be used but must not involve alcohol as part of the activity.
- The organiser of the activity should remain present for the duration of the activity.
- People should only attend the venue to take part in the activity and should not gather before or after.
- Activity organisers and the people in charge of the premises where the activity is taking place must ensure that **reasonable measures** are in place to keep all participants safe, including maintaining a two metre distance between people if they are not part of the same household
- Providing refreshments should be avoided because of the transmission risk. Parents/carers should try to bring their own food and drink for themselves and their children where possible
- Singing, chanting, shouting or the use of wind instruments are considered to be high risk activities and should generally be avoided, especially indoors, even where physical distancing and face coverings are used. If these do take place, the organisers of the activity must take extensive mitigating actions,

otherwise they may be failing to meet their statutory duty to take **all reasonable measures** to prevent the spread of coronavirus. Guidance covering **rehearsing, performing and taking part in the performing arts** has now been published. Other guidance such as that for **tourism and hospitality** or **places of worship** will be relevant depending on the activity and the setting.

- **Face coverings** must be worn by all staff and participants aged 11 and over when indoors, unless they have a reasonable excuse not to wear one or to remove one temporarily. Please visit our guidance on face coverings to see more information on the people who do not need to wear face coverings and the circumstances in which they can be removed.

Organised activities for children must not:

- Involve the sale or consumption of alcohol
- Take place in people's homes or gardens

It is the organisers' responsibility to ensure that all activities are provided in as safe a way as possible. We also ask that organisers consider a blended approach to the activity and where possible, outdoor activity is less risky than indoor activity and organisers should consider whether the activity can be undertaken online.

There is no fixed limit in law on the number of children that can participate, and for the purposes of these organised activities, that applies to all children up to the age of 18. However, both the organiser of the activity and the people responsible for the premises where the activity is taking place (as applicable) are responsible for completing a risk assessment and putting in place **all reasonable measures** to prevent infection and the spread of coronavirus. This may limit the number of children who can safely take part.

Any adults that may be present during these activities, but are not directly participating in or facilitating the activities, should not stay in the area where the activity is taking place. Supporters and spectators of organised activities should be limited to only those who absolutely need to attend, for example, parents or guardians of children who require their attendance for health or safeguarding reasons.

Any adults present on or near the premises while the activity is taking place must keep their distance both from those participating in the activity and also from other adults. Under no circumstances should adults waiting for their children be gathering in groups of more than four people while they wait. The organisers of the event should consider where parents might safely wait without being required to be in close proximity to each other, and should try to manage collection and drop off so that it does not create unnecessarily large crowds of people in close proximity.

While we recognise the potential welfare benefits these activities provide, the more people that gather, the greater the risk of coronavirus transmission. Again, rather than asking what we can or can't do, we need to ask ourselves what we should be doing to keep our families, friends and communities safe.