

Dear Business Owner

In light of the recent Government updates, we want to highlight to our businesses the changes along with relevant guidance/legislation links.

These changes apply to people in England of all ages, and to gatherings indoors and outdoors, in private homes, public outdoor spaces, and venues such as pubs and restaurants.

We recommend that businesses take into account the updates below and amend their Risk Assessments accordingly.

We have also included some FAQ's for those that do not have a straight forward answer.

Rule of 6

From Monday 14 September, you must not meet with people from other households socially in groups of more than 6 - This will apply indoors and outdoors, including in private homes. This change will simplify and clarify the rules on social gatherings, so they are easier to understand and easier for the police to enforce. There will be a limited number of exemptions. COVID-19 Secure venues, such as places of worship, restaurants and hospitality venues, can still host larger numbers in total but groups of up to 6 must not mix or form larger groups.

This rule will not apply to individual households or support bubbles of more than 6 who will still be able to gather together. Education and work settings are unaffected, and organised team sports will still be able to proceed, as will weddings and funerals up to 30. From Monday, this limit will be enforceable in law. The Guidance has been updated and can be found at the below link:

[Meeting with others safely \(social distancing\) \(GOV.UK Link\)](#)

From the 18 September, the new Regulations require certain undertakings in the hospitality industry, to take measures to ensure that their customers follow the rules on social distancing.

The responsibility lies with the business owner and the new regulations can be viewed at the below link:

[The Health Protection \(Coronavirus, Restrictions\) \(Obligations of Hospitality Undertakings\) \(England\) Regulations 2020 \(GOV.UK Link\)](#)

They state:

Restrictions on undertakings

2.—

(1) A person responsible for carrying on a business of a public house, café, restaurant

or other relevant business must, during the emergency period, take all reasonable measures to ensure that—

- a) no bookings for a table are accepted for a group of more than six persons unless one of the exemptions in regulation 5 of the Principal Regulations applies;
- b) no persons are admitted to the premises in a group of more than six, unless one of the exemptions in regulation 5 of the Principal Regulations applies;
- c) no person in one qualifying group mingles with any person in another qualifying group where this is not permitted under the Principal Regulations;
- d) an appropriate distance is maintained between tables occupied by different qualifying groups.

(2) For the purposes of this regulation—

- (a) an “appropriate distance” means a distance between tables of—
 - (i) at least two metres, or
 - (ii) at least one metre, if—
 - (aa) there are barriers or screens between tables;
 - (bb) the tables are arranged with back to back seating, or otherwise arranged to ensure that persons sitting at one table do not face any person sitting at another table at a distance of less than two metres; or
 - (cc) other measures are taken to limit the risk of transmission of the coronavirus between people sitting at different tables;
- (b) a “relevant business” is a business which provides food or drink for consumption on its premises.

Print your unique NHS QR code poster here:

<https://covid19.nhs.uk/venue-check-in-businesses.html>

Test and Trace

From 18 September, it will be mandatory for certain businesses to have a system to collect NHS Test and Trace data, and keep this for 21 days. Core COVID-19 Secure requirements are mandatory for hospitality businesses and breaches enforced. The government has also published simplified Covid-19 guidance as per the link below:

New Regulations - www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2020/1005/contents/made

Guidance - www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19

From 24 September, visitors will be able to scan a QR code using the NHS COVID-19 app. The app will allow individuals to automatically register visits to hospitality venues. Businesses must display QR code posters in support; however they must also continue to offer an alternative system like those generally existing, such as a handwritten register for anyone who doesn't have a smartphone.

The details required are:

- the name of the individual;
- a telephone number on which the individual may be contacted;
- an e-mail address if the individual is unable to provide a telephone number;
- a postal address if the individual is unable to provide an email address;

- the date and time that the individual entered the relevant premises;
- where the individual is a member of a group seeking permission to enter relevant premises together, the number of people in that group (including any member of the group that has scanned a QR Code when seeking to enter the relevant premises).

The regulations provide that for restaurants, including restaurants and dining rooms in hotels or members' clubs; cafes, including workplace canteens; bars, including bars in hotels or members' clubs; and public houses, **the person providing the service must take all reasonable steps to prevent access to an individual who refuses to provide the requisite details, or where none of the group has done so in accordance with the regulations.**

This requirement applies where the information collected is incomplete or the relevant person believes it to be inaccurate.

Coronavirus Outbreak FAQ's

[Guidance - Coronavirus Outbreak FAQs: What You Can and Can't Do \(GOV.UK Link\)](#)

From the guidance link above you will find a range of FAQ's, however we have highlighted some in which we have recently been asked:

- Can I hold a karaoke event?

It is strongly advised by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) that karaoke events are not held at the present time. This is due to the potential of transmission associated with aerosol production from singing.

- Can I allow people to dance?

This is strongly discouraged, with all indoor customers to be seated and having regard to appropriate social distancing.

- There is a birthday party booked at my venue which is not part of a wedding or funeral, am I allowed to let it go ahead?

Birthday parties should not take place and any gathering such as a wake can only take place if a suitable and sufficient Covid-19 risk assessment is in place. All attendees must be seated and adhere to social distancing rules and latest permitted group number, details of which are provided in the above link.

- Does the 30-person limit at a wedding or funeral include the staff?

Funerals should have no more than 30 people in attendance, a number relating specifically to mourners. Attendance should also be within the capacity limits of the premises so that social distancing can be strictly adhered to. In some cases that may be less than 30 people.

Capacity at a wedding or civil partnership reception or celebration (including the couple, guests and third-party suppliers, but not venue staff or third-party catering staff) should be no more than 30 and safely accommodated with social distancing in a COVID-19 secure venue

- A family from 1 household has 5 children plus mum & dad, making 7 of them. Can they all sit together at one table to eat a meal?

A gathering which consists of more than six people unless all the people in the gathering are from the same household, or are members of two households which are linked households in relation to each other (e.g. support bubble)

Coronavirus Workplace Guidance

There is specific guidance produced for various types of workplace and you will need to use the guidance to form the basis of your risk assessments.

Please see below the links to official government guidance

- [Guidance for the Safe Use of Multi-Purpose Community Facilities \(GOV.UK Link\)](#)
- [Working safely during coronavirus \(COVID-19\) \(GOV.UK Link\)](#)
 - [Close Contact Services \(GOV.UK Link\)](#)
 - [Hotel and Other Guest Accommodation \(GOV.UK Link\)](#)
 - [Offices and Contact Centres \(GOV.UK Link\)](#)
 - [Performing Arts \(GOV.UK Link\)](#)
 - [Restaurants Offering Takeaway or Delivery \(GOV.UK Link\)](#)
 - [Shops and Branches \(GOV.UK Link\)](#)
- [Staying Alert and Safe \(GOV.UK Link\)](#)

If you have any further queries or concerns, please email:

Licensing@fenland.gov.uk for all Licensing enquiries

envhealth@fenland.gov.uk for all Covid related queries

You can also find information on our website by visiting:

www.fenland.gov.uk/coronavirus

or call 01354 654321