

Information on resuming indoor activities in Community Centres, Village Halls and Town Halls

In partnership with Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway, Dumfries and Galloway Council is giving support in understanding the latest guidance in relation to preparation for resuming indoor activities in Community Centres and Village Halls. The information below is the latest position as of 15 April 2021 and helps provide clarity on the current guidance available.

For guidance on when it will be permitted for your facility to open, please keep up to date with Scottish Government's Coronavirus (COVID-19): timetable for easing restrictions. This sets out how and when Scottish Government plan to lift the current coronavirus restrictions over the coming weeks and months:

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): timetable for easing restrictions - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-timetable/pages/1-introduction.aspx)

For the up-to-date Protection Levels for your area please keep checking:

<https://www.gov.scot/check-local-covid-level/>

For Council owned facilities Dumfries and Galloway Council's Community Assets Teams are happy to support any management committee in restarting their services and you can contact your local Community Assets office for further support and guidance:

Wigtownshire	CommunityAssets-Wigtown@dumgal.gov.uk
Stewartry	CommunityAssets-Stewartry@dumgal.gov.uk
Nithsdale	CommunityAssets-Nithsdale@dumgal.gov.uk
Annandale & Eskdale	CommunityAssets-Annandale&Eskdale@dumgal.gov.uk

Or call 030 3333 3000 and ask to speak with your local Community Assets Officer.

Support and guidance is also available through Third Sector Dumfries & Galloway:

Email: info@tsdg.org.uk

Or call 0300 303 8558 and ask to speak with an Engagement Officer.

Scottish Government guidance on safe reopening (December 2020):

As of 15 April 2021, the specific guidance for Community Centres and Village Halls issued by Scottish Government can be found here

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): multi-purpose community facilities - guidance - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-multi-purpose-community-facilities-guidance/pages/1-introduction.aspx)



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To highlight, prior to opening and any activity taking place at a venue, it is the responsibility of the management of a facility to undertake a documented risk assessment, based on their local circumstances. Consider safety first, particularly focusing on minimising the risk of infection/transmission.

National organisations including SportScotland have issued guidance to help operators plan and prepare for the opening of indoor sports halls, which are defined as gymnasiums, activity halls, bowls halls, dance fitness, yoga and combat studios, and other similar areas.

More at: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) information and resources \(sportscotland.org.uk\)](https://www.sportscotland.org.uk/coronavirus)

Voluntary organisations operate in a wide range of settings, from traditional offices to community centres. As we start to reopen premises that have been closed during lockdown, it is important that everyone continues to follow the latest guidance without becoming complacent.

[This tool](#) from the Scottish Government can help organisations to assess the effectiveness of control measures that you have in place.

For more, including risk assessment guidance and examples, see: [Safe premises – SCVO](#)

The key things we would advise groups to consider are:

- Appropriate measures must be put in place to ensure participants, staff and volunteers are always protected.
- Check with your Insurers if they require risk assessments for cover
- Be clear about what facilities you are providing, you will be responsible for these;
 - Rooms
 - Staff/volunteers
 - Catering
 - Toilets
- Make sure you have adjusted your capacity to allow for social distancing
- Make sure the building is safe if it has been shut for a long time

Good first steps will be to work through the guidance, risk assess specific to your group's situation/location and communicate with volunteers and facility users on future plans.

Community Facilities are used for many different reasons and the following guidance may prove useful where youth work activity is taking place...

UPDATED GUIDANCE FOR THE RENEWAL OF YOUTH WORK SERVICES

Permitted approach to the safe delivery of youth work as of 7 April 2021

Indoor Youth Work - Indoor youth work activities, targeted at vulnerable young people aged 12-17, will be permitted from 7 April. Maximum of 15 persons, including youth workers. Indoor activity should be limited to activity which cannot take place online or outdoors.

Outdoor Youth Work – Outdoor youth work activities, with a maximum of 15 individuals (inclusive of young people and youth workers/leaders) in any one interaction. The general approach should be to minimise the size of groups where possible.

For further guidance please see:

<https://youthwork.dumgal.gov.uk/article/22207/Guidance-on-Resuming-Youth-Work->

For full guidance please see: [youth-work-covid-19-guidance-framework.pdf](#) (Youth Link Scotland)

For ALL Covid-19 up-to-date information and guidance, regularly check the Scottish Government guidance pages at: <https://www.gov.scot/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance/>

Download and encourage others to use the Test and Protect App available on the following link:

<https://protect.scot/>

Disclaimer:

The purpose of this document is to assist hall operators/users and is provided as a guidance only as of 15 April 2021. This does not amount to legal advice. It is the responsibility of the person organising the activity/activities to ensure that they follow current Scottish Government guidance and legislation in relation to COVID-19 and that any restrictions imposed by the government are followed. Hall operators/users may wish to seek their own legal advice to ensure compliance with all legal requirements.