

Reopening business and Community Premises Safely 30/6/20 and 1/7/20

Carolyn Walsh (Community Connector) cwalsh@lancaster.gov.uk or generic address: communityconnectors@lancaster.gov.uk opened the meeting and introduced Andre Hunt (senior Environmental Health Officer) ahunt@lancaster.gov.uk.

Andre Hunt – Gave the following presentation:

<http://www.lancaster.gov.uk/assets/attach/6094/Church%20and%20Village%20Halls%20Presentation.pdf>

Village Halls and Community Centres are being classed with Hospitality as the most appropriate category. Further government guidance found here:

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5eb96e8e86650c278b077616/Keeping-workers-and-customers-safe-during-covid-19-restaurants-pubs-bars-takeaways-230620.pdf>

This means they can open from this Saturday. Some activities remain closed – outdoor play areas can reopen – used by small groups in bubble – Child Minders and play scheme's should provide their own Risk Assessments for you to consider as they are legally using your premises these could reopen from the 1st June.

Over all Centres must complete risk assessments and should be make decisions based on social distancing – a good source of information is ACRE guidance (Action with Communities in Rural England).

Indoor gatherings should only be occurring in groups of up to two households (including support bubbles) while outdoor gatherings should only be occurring in groups of up to two households (or support bubbles), or a group of at most six people from any number of households. If well-spaced out (Social distancing 2M) there is no limits on numbers.

Cleaning – BSEN14476 products can kill the virus, read the backs of bottles to find the contact time within 5 min, I suggest a swoosh spray and leave to air dry.

Website gives all this information as well as information on potential funding and grant applications: <http://www.lancaster.gov.uk/sites/coronavirus-information/charity-and-community-support> in addition please register for announcements / newsletters at email: econdev@lancaster.gov.uk for information applicable to you.

Andre reminded people that it was important to keep contact details of people using the facilities from a track and trace purposes if you have organised the event such as a coffee stop if you hire out the venue then the hirer is responsible to keeping peoples details you should retain the hirers details for 21 days from the event taking place.

Questions:

Q - How long does the Virus last on fabric chairs?

A – This has not been scientifically validated however, most retailers are holding returned fabric products for 72 hours, so this is the best available information at the moment. if the chairs have metal or plastic arms and legs these can be cleaned / wiped down. From later question – couches could be covered, and the covers washed. If surfaces are sprayed with BSEN14476 and left to air dry they are also OK. If a centre has enough furniture to rotate between groups, this would be good.

Q – What is the longevity of the virus on wood.

A – Again unknown – but cardboard is 24hrs, if the wood un-varnished then I would suggest 24hrs would apply. Should the wood be varnished or painted the life of the virus could be extended to 48hrs.

Q – Our centre has a Bar and a Gym – can they reopen?

A – The Bar can from Saturday 4th July – see hospitality guide this must be in the form of table service - no vertical waiting. The Gym is not able to open yet – no indoor exercise is permitted, and the Government has not set an opening date yet I am afraid.

Q - What is the meaning of Chu on slide 6

A – Abbreviation for Church.

Q – Does the council have a bulk supply of Hand Sanitizer (and other PPE) that community centres and church halls can buy from them?

A - Carolynne Walsh will look into this – later Mark Bartlett said that while the council could not supply Sanitizer it could give details of its suppliers.

Q – Questions regarding fabric chairs (see above) – Also can Yoga and Pilates start again.

A – Both activities are classed as indoor exercise so they cannot start again at the moment unfortunately.

Q - Can therapy/trauma meeting take place in small groups.

A – Yes – with social distancing.

Q – asked about numbers attending meetings?

A – We have family groups, those in support bubbles and individuals, these categories of people must social distance themselves from each category grouping and the only limit is down to the size of the building/room used however, I would recommend a manageable size limit of 30 people who can attend.

Q – Can chair-based exercise return?

A – No this is still indoor exercise.

Q – Asked if meditation can start?

A – Yes this is not classed as exercise if only humming...

Q – Can indoor dog training start.

A – Yes as long as people are not shouting, and social distancing can be observed – recommended limit of 6 people.

Q – What is the maximum number permitted for outdoor exercise.

A – We have family groups, those in support bubbles and individuals, these categories of people must social distance themselves from each category grouping and the only limit is down to the size of the outside area used however, I would recommend a manageable size limit of 30 people who can attend – no contact sports are permitted yet unfortunately.

Q – Can Choirs restart?

A – A guest pointed out that they were not allowed singing in church presently – Andre concurred.

Q – asked about starting outdoor circuit classes?

A – Yes this is OK as long as equipment isn't shared and is cleaned appropriately. Up to 30 people was recommended (space permitting) - socially distanced.

Q – Asked about restarting Badminton and indoor bowls and Children's parties.

A – Indoor badminton is a contact sport and exercise so unfortunately not. Indoor Bowls unfortunately not permitted as it is classed as a sport. Children's parties should be in bubbles of 6 and under well supervised with attention paid to parents as well as children – classed the same as education.

Q- Can we prop open doors – RE: Fire Regulations?

A - If you are going to prop it open, do that, but be aware that the door needs to be closed if it is marked fire door. If a door is a marked fire door on the building/fire plan, then it needs to be closed. However any other door would be OK to prop open. From a public health perspective. Have conversations with LCC. Don't want open external doors to cause a noise/public nuisance. Should you have any queries regarding fire doors speak to the fire service who are happy to give advice.

Q - In relation to a Unit with co-working where people are wanting to come back, even if it's for a day or two a week. The question is about showers. Can these be open? And Is it reasonable for people to come into work?

A – Consider this in your risk assessment. Some people are, some are not allowing the use of showers at work. If you do allow it stagger when people come in. Use a booking system for showers. Could have a cleaner. Or make the person aware of the cleaning products and what needs cleaning after use. My personal recommendation is not to have showers in use at work.

Coming to work: If there is social distancing in place it is a good thing for people's mental health. If there is a workspace that could be used by different people. The person who has last used it cleans it with appropriate chemicals and leaves to air dry wiping everywhere on the workstation and chair arms etc.. (when finished at my desk I swoosh my keyboard, desk, mouse and chair arms with appropriate cleaning chemical then let it air dry for the next person the next morning.) Also consider shared areas e.g. kitchens and toilets will need more regular cleaning if used more.

Fiona Inston added: Wider health is also a consideration. The advice is to work from home wherever you can, but also working out who is in on what day. Some form of booking system. Look at what controls are in place and follow the principles in the guidance. Sometimes people want to feel part of the organisation or struggle to do some things for home. Sensible measures about infection control.

Q - What chemicals / how do we clean around food / food prep?

A - Chemicals should not be used around food as it may taint the food or cause a reaction in the consumer. Clean the area first and when finished a job. If you need to clean down when food is out spray into a blue towel away from food, then use the towel to clean the surface.

Q - Any guidance published around groups for over 70s, that are using halls?

A - No specific guidance. But vulnerable people – these individuals are advised to stay at home where possible. Certain groups are higher risk such as those over 70 . So, need to be even more vigilant. Use outdoor space where possible. Please see:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-multi-purpose-community-facilities/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-multi-purpose-community-facilities>

Q - Is 30 the absolute maximum

A - 30 is a manageable number It allows for room to serve etc. The guidance for places of worship is 30, but it comes down to the size of the premises. If people have a shield, mask or face shield, then the 1m distance is OK. If you had, for example, people outside, 30 is still a good number. If they are 2m apart. If it's a family in a group or a social bubble they can sit in their own groups.

Q - If a place of worship is open, does someone need to be in attendance to supervise?

A - Difficult to answer. It depends on the risk assessment and level of risk. If there are only small numbers, then possibly not. If larger visitor numbers, then that's different. There is no absolute answer, and comes down to risk assessment and what is an appropriate measure.

All guidance must be interpreted by the City Council at local level. It is not always clear, from one premises to another due to combined use or the specific nature of their practice. Sometimes the LCC legal team are consulted. Lancaster CC can ask the relevant government department (OPSS) for advice on premises. Each authority may interpret a little differently.

Q - Are massage business allowed to open?

A - No. Because of the close contact between staff and customers the same applies to gyms and live performances. We are hoping that Central Government will announce opening dates for these sectors of business soon, but no dates from Government have been announced yet. It is a central Government decision.

Fiona Inston (Head of Public Protection) concluded - Thank you everyone for attending and contributing. Much the work done has been prevention work. We are not getting the levels of outbreaks locally. Will continue over the next weeks and months to support various businesses and other centres to open safely. We want to continue to have this dialogue with our communities.

Civil Contingencies Officer Mark Bartlett added that centres could still be used as emergency centre if the need arises.