

Sent to Divisions, Regions, Centres, Singers, Band and Groupings Secretaries

Copy to Divisions, Regions, Centres, Singers, Band and Groupings Chairmen

Executive Committee

Nominated Members

Club Departments

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Covid Update - 22 December 2021Â

Dear all

As you will be aware, the devolved Governments have been making announcements this week and are introducing a number of restrictions that come into effect on Boxing Day (26 December 2021). England has announced that there will be no restrictions coming into effect before Christmas, however, it is possible that an announcement could be made for restrictions to come into play after Christmas Day.Â As yet we do not know when this announcement might be made.

English Guidance - <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>Â

Please keep an eye on any Government updates that may be implemented on Boxing Day (26 December).

Remember that current Government guidance states that any events with music and dancing which are continuing after 1 am (up to 5 am) will be considered a "late night venue"™ and the restrictions currently in place mean that an NHS Covid Pass is required as a condition of entry.

Scottish Guidance - <https://www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Covid restrictions are being introduced from Boxing Day (26 December) which limit the numbers that can gather indoors to 100 standing or 200 seated.Â Indoor hospitality and leisure venues will be asked to introduce 1m distancing between groups of people who are attending together.Â Â

Wales Guidance - <https://gov.wales/coronavirus> and <https://gov.wales/alert-level-2-summary>Â

Covid restrictions are being introduced from Boxing Day (26 December); numbers are limited to 30 for indoor events and outdoor events are limited to 50. Please check that these numbers are being adhered to if rallying in Wales after 26 December 2021.Â All organised events must have a risk assessment.Â Two-metre social distancing will be required in all premises open to the public and face coverings will be required in hospitality settings at all times.

Northern Ireland Guidance - <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/coronavirus-covid-19-regulations-and-guidance-what-they-mean-you>

Republic of Ireland Guidance -

https://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/covid19/living_with_covid19_plan.html

At the current time, rallies are still permitted although these are likely to be affected by the restrictions which are being introduced:

- o Please ensure that you continue to conduct thorough Risk Assessments and that all recommended Covid protocols are in place. This includes taking such steps as

are necessary to minimise the risk of transmission, particularly when using internal venues, such as keeping them well ventilated.Â Â

- o Keep Risk Assessments in a safe place, and ensure that the Rally Officer/Marshal has a copy to hand, should it be requested.Â
 - o If there is an indoor element to your rally, please comply with any new restrictions and check with the venue on their requirements, especially concerning the wearing of face coverings. There are specific guidelines for village halls and hotels and you should comply with any restrictions they put in place. Please note the new guidance in Wales and Scotland from 26 December 2021 about indoor gatherings.
- We recommend that all members are encouraged to take regular lateral flow tests before participating in events where they will be mixing with others (Flow before you Go).Â Anyone with symptoms should not attend, and nor should those who have been in contact with a positive case.Â
 - We recommend that the wearing of face coverings are worn in indoor places which are crowded and enclosed and where you may come into contact with people you do not normally meet.

Remember our priority is to keep safe and be mindful of other members and their wishes.Â Â

Please note that Head Office will be closed for the festive season from 24 December so please keep checking Government guidance for any new announcements which might impact your plans and the Committee should make any precautionary decisions that they feel are necessary to comply with any restrictions put in place.Â

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