

### Coronavirus (COVID-19) - Information for Village Halls

#### **General Information:**

You can keep up-to-date with the government's advice to the public here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

You should also consider the government's advice to employers, which can also be followed by volunteer-involving organisations:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19/guidance-for-employers-and-businesses-on-covid-19>

#### **Preventing the spread of infection**

Everyone in the UK is advised to undertake social distancing measures: these are steps you can take to reduce the social interaction between people. See <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people/guidance-on-social-distancing-for-everyone-in-the-uk-and-protecting-older-people-and-vulnerable-adults>

Public Health England advise that everyone takes the following precautions (This is the same advice given for the avoidance of general colds and flu)

- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze. See <https://www.england.nhs.uk/south/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2017/09/catch-bin-kill.pdf>
- put used tissues in the bin straight away
- wash your hands with soap and water often – use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available. See [hand washing guidance](#)
- try to avoid close contact with people who are unwell
- clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces
- do not touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean

#### **If you think you are unwell**

The following symptoms may develop in the 14 days after exposure to someone who has COVID-19 infection:

- cough
- difficulty in breathing
- fever

Generally, these infections can cause more severe symptoms in people with weakened immune systems, older people, and those with long-term conditions like diabetes, cancer and chronic lung disease. If you think you or someone close to you has symptoms or may have been exposed to the virus, follow NHS guidance to find out what to do next:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

#### **Information specific to village hall and community building committees:**

We have also sought advice from ACRE our umbrella organisation who suggest the following for committees of village halls and community buildings

- Take notice of the Government and Public Health England websites and keep up to date with the ongoing situation
- Keep the Hall very clean and ensure that paper towels are available and hand driers are working efficiently.
- Avoid the use of hand towels
- Put up a notice about hand washing (see link to guidance above. Link to public information poster here: <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5e35b25740f0b609169cb52a/coronavirus-public-info-poster-2.pdf>
- Advise hirers that they are expected to act responsibly and take notice of Government and Public Health England advice which includes who is and isn't allowed to be in public spaces



- Regarding cancellation of any bookings, follow the steps in your hiring agreement.
- Check with insurers about loss of income clauses.

Further updates to this information will be posted on our website here:

<https://communityimpactbucks.org.uk/community/buckinghamshire-community-buildings/>