

Community Impact Bucks' COVID-19 Briefing #76

Further guidance following national restrictions

Short regular briefing from Community Impact Bucks

6th November 2020

Dear Sir/Madam,

As the new lockdown came into effect on 5 November 2020, here are a few key points from the latest [Government guidance](#) -

Until Wednesday 2 December, we must:

- stay at home, except for specific purposes
- avoid meeting people we do not live with, except for specific purposes
- close certain businesses and venues

These new measures are intended to reduce the growth rate of the virus which, in turn, should:

- prevent the NHS from being overwhelmed
- ensure schools, colleges and universities can stay open
- ensure that as many people as possible can continue to work

So what does that mean for the voluntary sector?

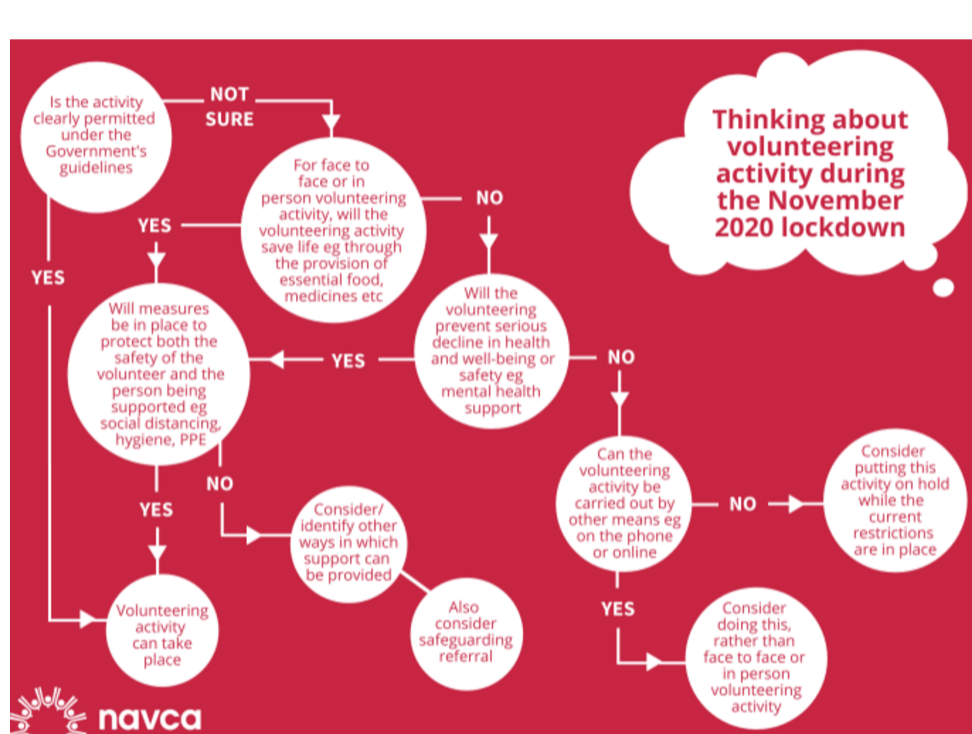
EMPLOYEES

The Chancellor announced an extension to the **Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme** (furlough) with employees receiving 80% of their current salary for hours not worked. Employers will only need pay for National Insurance and employer pension contributions for hours not worked. Employees who have recently been made redundant but who were on your payroll on 23 September 2020 can be re-added to your workforce and then furloughed.

The extension to the CJRS will be reviewed in January to 'examine whether the economic circumstances are improving enough for employers to be asked to increase contributions.' More information from [Charity Finance Group](#).

[Additional information](#) is available from the Government, and HMRC has published [technical guidance](#).

VOLUNTEERS



Our umbrella organisation NAVCA has produced a [quick guide to decision-making in relation to volunteering activity](#) which you may find useful. It may also help you to document how you have reached a decision to carry out an activity or use a building for example.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Support groups that have to be delivered in person can continue with up to 15 participants where formally organised to provide mutual aid, therapy or any other form of support. This includes, but is not limited to, support to victims of crime, people in drug and alcohol recovery, new parents and guardians, people with long-term illnesses, people facing issues relating to their sexuality or gender, and those who have suffered bereavement, and vulnerable young people, including for them to meet young workers.

COMMUNITY BUILDINGS

Community centres and halls must close except for a limited number of exempt activities. Exempt activities include:

- education and training (including for schools to use sports and leisure facilities where that is part of their normal provision)
- childcare purposes and supervised activities for children
- blood donation and food banks
- to provide medical treatment
- for elite sports persons (in indoor and outdoor sports facilities), professional dancers and choreographers (in fitness and dance studios)
- for training and rehearsal without an audience (in theatres and concert halls)
- for the purposes of professional film and TV filming

Our umbrella organisation ACRE has provided [key information](#) in our role as Rural Community Council for Buckinghamshire. The information sheet details what permitted activities can continue to take place and provides relevant extracts from current Government legislation.

PARENT AND CHILD GROUPS

Parent and child groups can continue where they provide support to parent and/or child, and children under 5 will not be counted within the 15 person limit - meaning parents and carers can attend such groups in larger numbers.

PEOPLE

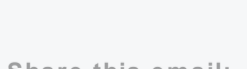
The Government has issued updated [guidance on support for people considered to be Clinically Extremely Vulnerable \(CEV\)](#).

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