



## CORNWALL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

UNIT 1/1A, 1 RIVERSIDE HOUSE, HERON WAY, NEWHAM, TRURO TR1 2XN

*Serving the parish and town councils of Cornwall*

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### CALC BRIEFING – FAQ 15

January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021

#### COVID 19 IN CORNWALL

This week we have learned of the rapid increase in Covid 19 cases across Cornwall, attributed to the new variant of the virus. Gradually the rates of infection have increased, and the situation in Cornwall has now deteriorated to a point where the situation has become critical with more positive Covid cases than at any other time during the pandemic. Unlike previous lockdowns, the main source of infection is from transfer at home. Public Health England, RCH Treliske and other care providers are stressing the need to respect the lockdown rules, restrict our time outdoors and support the ‘hands, face, space’ message.

A recording of a briefing by Rachel Wigglesworth, Director of Public Health held on January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021 is available to [here](#).

CALC has been asked to help promote the importance of respecting the new guidelines in order to keep everyone safe and lower the rates of infection. We are preparing a number of posters which will be available for you to use on social media, website, noticeboards and materials. Anything your council can do to help publicise this message within your communities will be greatly appreciated.

#### UPDATE ON PLAY AREAS, PARKS AND PUBLIC OPEN SPACES

The lockdown guidance gives a list of public spaces which can remain open. We have been asked for further information on the status of skateparks and MUGAS as these are not specifically mentioned. We have worked with Cornwall Council to understand the guidelines and agree a common approach, but it essential that you also consider how you can manage your own facilities safely in line with current restrictions.

**Sports Courts** – these are defined as a facility for designed for team sports on an artificial surface with a number of enclosed sides. In addition to tennis and ball sports, this includes MUGAs which should remain closed.

**Skateboard facilities** – Skateboard GB has confirmed that indoor and outdoor skate parks should be closed during lockdown. We are aware that there are also skateboarding facilities within play spaces and smaller installations. It is the responsibility of the provider to ensure that these can be used in line with the new requirements and some will be closed whilst others remain open. We are aware that skateboard facilities in Cornwall Council play areas will remain open, and that some larger town facilities are already closed.

It is essential that you undertake a risk assessment to assess whether your own facilities can be run safely or should be closed. Any decisions must be reviewed regularly or when circumstances/usage changes.

## **NEW GUIDE TO COVID 19 SECURE PUBLIC PLACES**

The Government has produced 2 new guides for the management of open spaces. The guides are :

[Covid 19 Secure : Safer Public Places](#)

[Covid-19 : Guidance for managing beaches, the countryside and coastal areas](#)

They stress the need for responsible management by all providers to ensure that any facilities meet the Covid 19 lockdown tests, keeping local, social distancing and hygiene.

To avoid transmission of the virus, PHE strongly recommends that providers consider how users would be able to meet the Covid-19 lockdown requirements as part of their risk assessment. Even though facilities are defined as able to remain open, it may not be possible to manage all of the risks appropriately and they should be closed in the short term.

Key considerations are :

- In keeping the space open, are you adhering to the national guidance?
- Can participants adhere to the national guidance when using the space?
- Can participants adhere to the social distancing requirements?
- Are participants being encouraged to washing hands/ sanitise hands?
- Are participants being encouraged to wear a mask where possible?
- Are participants staying local? Not travelling long distances to use the equipment?

The [CALC guide to Playground Risk Assessment](#) gives further guidance with templates.

As always, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sarah Mason  
County Executive Officer