

Extracts from the Third Age Trust advice dated 20th August and entitled:

Covid-19 Advice on U3A Activities - U3A-KMS-DOC-072, sub section 'Further guidance for England.'

4.3 Community Halls

If you intend to resume using a community hall the Group Leader/Convenor or Group Coordinator you must ensure that:

- a) you have details of how the facility providers have ensured that the facility is Covid-Secure
- b) and that measures are in place to ensure all those using the facility must do so in a way that is Covid-Secure including the maximum number that can be safely accommodated

The Group Leader/Convenor should contact the venue prior to commencing the interest group and should visit it to satisfy themselves of a) and b) above

Review the venue guidance for Covid-Secure participation and capacity limits for the rooms with social distancing.

Give clear information about limiting the group size in line with these recommendations

Keep a record should be kept of how the building and its use is Covid-Secure by the Group Leader/Convenor.

The Group Leader/Convenor should keep a record of the date and time of using the building and note on each occasion that the building was complying with its Covid-Secure arrangements

The Group Leader/Convenor should advise all members that they **MUST** use the facility in line with the guidance provided to users at all times [and should keep a record of having done so]

4.4 Private Home Inside

No interest group can be conducted inside a private home at this time (Aug 8th 2020)

4.5 Private Home Outside

Interest groups:

Can meet in any outdoor space in a group of up to 6 people from different households

Must continue to follow strict social distancing guidelines

Advise members to take hygiene precautions by washing their hands as soon as you are home for at least 20 seconds

Use their own hand sanitiser when attending the interest group

Access private gardens externally wherever possible – if a member needs to go through someone else's home to do so, avoid touching surfaces

Avoid using toilets in other people's home wherever possible and wipe down surfaces as frequently as possible

Using disinfectant, wipe down any surfaces or door handles people from outside of the interest leader's household come into contact with if walking through your home

Avoid sharing plates and utensils with people outside of their household

4.6 Activity

4.6.1 Sports

Where a national sporting body has provided guidance enabling community sports to commence that guidance must be followed at all times.

A list of current sports providing guidance is being compiled and will be available soon.

A Group Leader/Convenor wishing to commence a sport activity must:

Check whether there is national sporting body guidance available for community groups and follow this

Record an assessment of how the sport interest group will comply with the national body Covid guidelines

Advise all members participating in the sport how they must comply with the Covid guidance when participating in the sport

Complete a risk assessment for all other non-Covid elements of undertaking the activity

Prior to each sporting interest group session, the Group Leader/Convenor must:

Remind members of hygiene requirements, for example, to bring hand sanitizer, face masks and not to share refreshments.

Not share equipment e.g. racquets, tabards etc. and regularly disinfect any balls or equivalent.

Ask each member to complete details of registration for the session for track and trace which must be kept by the Group Leader/Convenor for 21 days

Remind members not to participate if they are experiencing Covid-19 symptoms

Ensure their compliance record relating to Covid-Secure sports participation is up to date

Ensure the risk assessment of the activity is up to date

4.6.2 Walking

The Ramblers Association has provided guidance on walking safely during Covid

Prior to commencing walking groups, a walking Group Leader/Convenor must:

Record an assessment of how the sport interest group will comply with the Rambler Covid guidelines

Advise all members participating in the walking how they must comply with the Covid guidance when participating in the walk

Complete a risk assessment for all other non-Covid elements of undertaking the walk

Prior to each walking group session the Group Leader/Convenor must:

Remind members of hygiene requirements, for example, to bring hand sanitizer, face masks and not to share refreshments.

Ask each member to complete details of registration for the session for track and trace which must be kept by the Group Leader/Convenor for 21 days

Remind members not to participate if they are experiencing Covid-19 symptoms

Ensure their compliance record relating to Covid-Secure walk is up to date

Ensure the risk assessment of the walk is up to date

4.7 Art and Craft, Model building or Creative Interest Groups

Interest groups such as art, quilting, individual model making.

Group Leaders/Convenors must:

Complete a written assessment of how many participants can attend the Covid-Secure venue whilst ensuring social distancing is maintained.

Advise members that all materials required in the session must be brought by themselves to the session and used individually materials must not be shared

If venue chairs/ tables are being used, check with hall providers how these are sanitised before and after use.

Prior to the interest group meeting the Group Leader/Convenor must:

Remind members of hygiene requirements, for example, to bring hand sanitizer, face masks and not to share refreshments.

Ask each member to complete details of registration for the session for track and trace which must be kept by the Group Leader/Convenor for 21 days

Remind members not to participate if they are experiencing Covid-19 symptoms

Ensure the risk assessment of the activity is up to date

Guidance on crafts requiring shared electronic devices such as sewing machines, wood turning, and interest groups such as board games and bridge is still being investigated. Bridge is still not allowed according to the (EBU 8.8.29).

Note: The above is an extract which covers all current Havant U3A activities. If you want to read the Third Age Trust's advice in full please log into their website and click onto 'Advice' followed by 'Running your U3A during Covid-19'.