

Guidance for Reopening Community Hubs, Cafes and Places of Welcome

The announcement of the government's road map gives us some indications as to when we can re-open our community hubs, cafes and Places of Welcome. First, the 4 Steps :

1. From 29th March A maximum of 6 people meeting in a group outside
2. From 12th April We can offer food and drink to be consumed outside as long as it is ordered and consumed seated down.
3. From 17th May Up to 30 people can meet outdoors
The rule of 6 applies indoors
Food and drink can be consumed inside as long as it is ordered and consumed seated down.
4. From 21st June All restrictions lifted but Hands, Face, Space continues.

There will be a minimum of five weeks between steps, therefore any change in a step date will impact on later steps start dates. Before Step 4 the government will complete a review of social distancing and other longer-term measures. Covid secure building measures are likely to remain in place.

The implications for our community offerings are :

From Step 2, 12th April 'Chattys' can restart meeting outside in groups of no larger than six people. Attendees should stay with the same six and not move around groups or mingle in any way. Tea/Coffee/Cake can be offered but should be ordered and consumed whilst seated.

From Step 3, 17th May Outside groups of up to 30 people can meet, so the Rule of 6 no longer applies to outdoor meetings. Indoor cafes/hubs can re-open following the Rule of 6 and with table ordering and service. Attendees should stay with the same six and not move around groups or mingle in any way.

From Step 4, 21st June Normal service is resumed but subject to the updated social distancing/long term measures advice.

Please pay particular attention to any changes to the start date of a step and apply the delay to the following steps. Hands, Face, Space applies at all steps.

Support groups

Your community group has been allowed throughout the lockdown to bring together up to 15 people to offer each other mutual aid, therapy, or any other form of support. However, most closed due to the church building being closed or because of the risk to attendees during the surge in Kent cases. The groups can be focused on any issue your community need support with, for example, 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.

Where a support group includes someone covered by an exception (for example, someone who is working or volunteering), they are not counted as part of the gatherings limit. For example, you could have 15 people participating in a support group plus two volunteers running it. People attending a support group are not allowed to mix before, during or after the group and should stay in their household or support bubble.

The decision to re-open these support groups should be taken in conjunction with your clergy/PCC as there will be a building cleaning responsibility following the group meeting.

If you are unclear on any point please contact the CESA Team for further guidance –

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Information sources:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-response-spring-2021>

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches#na>

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2020-04/Community%20action.pdf>

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