



## **Covid-19 Update: Government's Plan B**

### **Face Coverings from today (Friday 10 December 2021):**

From today, wearing face coverings is **mandatory** in Village Halls and Community Centres.

Further information is available at: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own)

### **When you do not need to wear a face covering:**

Government guidance on face coverings has been updated this morning, with further detail on when you do not need to wear one.

*"Face coverings are not required in hospitality venues where food and drink are consumed (such as pubs, cafés and restaurants), or during exercise (such as gyms), including dancing (such as nightclubs).*

*Where a premises or part of a premises is being used for an event where the main activities include eating, drinking and dancing, face coverings are not required. Face coverings must be worn in communal areas of the premises not being used for the event, such as in a hotel lobby when an event is taking place in a conference room.*

*In indoor settings where a face covering is not legally required, you should still continue to wear a face covering in crowded and enclosed spaces where you may come into contact with other people you do not normally meet."*

There are also some circumstances where people may not be able to wear a face covering e.g. because of age (under 11 years) or disability.

Please visit the guidance for full details: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own)

### **Who is responsible?**

The responsibility for wearing a face covering is the individual's, not the building owner or organiser of an activity.

### **Signage required:**

The regulations include a requirement to put up signs telling people they must wear face coverings in your hall. Free download available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-poster>



### **Singing:**

The regulations permit the removal of face coverings for singing in the following situations: as part of a choir, service, performance or rehearsal for a performance.

### **Use of the Covid Pass:**

From Wednesday 15 December, and subject to parliamentary approval, the NHS Covid Pass on the NHS App will become mandatory for entry into nightclubs and settings where large crowds gather". This is unlikely to apply affect most village/community halls as it applies to:

- Late Night Dance venues: open between 1am – 5am, serving alcohol, with a dancefloor and music for dancing.
- Indoor events with 500+ unseated attendees, where those attendees are likely to stand or move around for all or part of the event, such as music venues with standing audiences or large receptions;
- Outdoor events with 4,000 or more unseated attendees, where those attendees are likely to stand or move around for all or part of the event, such as outdoor festivals; and
- Any events with 10,000 or more attendees indoor or outdoor, such as large sports and music events

As mentioned in the *ACRE Covid-19 Winter Advice*, circulated in September, those holding a crowded event e.g., a wedding where Clinically Extremely Vulnerable people are expected may, if they wish, ask guests to use the NHS Covid Pass and/or show proof of a negative test, but this is not mandatory.

Further information at: [www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-coronavirus-restrictions-what-you-can-and-cannot-do#required-use-of-the-nhs-covid-pass](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-coronavirus-restrictions-what-you-can-and-cannot-do#required-use-of-the-nhs-covid-pass)

### **National ACRE News Item/Update:**

National ACRE has (this morning) put the following news item/update on its website: <https://acre.org.uk/news/2021-12-10-an-update-for-village-halls-on-the-governments-plan-b-covid-restrictions>

### **More information next week:**

We expect the *ACRE Covid-19 Winter Advice* for halls (referred to above) to be reviewed early next week and will share that with you when it is available.