

COVID-19: Licensed Premises Webinar

Question & Answer Session

How likely are we to move to indoor hospitality on the 17th May, Stage 3?

Unfortunately, we are not given any indication that the roadmap will progress as predicted until the government make their announcement. This will be reviewed on 10 May 2021.

Are COVID Certificates likely to be announced for Hospitality venues?

There is no current guidance to state that COVID certificates will be introduced for hospitality venues.

Do those under the age of 18 need to check in via the NHS QR App, or leave their details?

Yes, anybody aged 16+ is legally required to check in to the venue or leave their details to assist with NHS Track & Trace. Those who refuse to provide their details should be denied entry to the premises.

Can I utilise my car park for extra tables and chairs to allow for extra outdoor capacity? Do I need to let the Licensing Department know?

Yes, you will be able to utilize your car parking facilities to allow for extra outdoor capacity. Businesses who don't have off-sales currently on their premises licence, and want to utilise their outdoor space, we would ask that they notify us of their intention to do this.

Do we still need to pay our annual fees? Can we pay in instalments?

Yes, annual fees must still be paid as stated in the Licensing Act 2003. We are urging those struggling to pay these fees to speak to us.

Can our licence still be suspended for non-payment of fees?

Yes, the licence can be suspended. The Licensing Act 2003 requires us to suspend a premises licence if an annual fee is not paid. The local authority will give a notice to the licence holder to that effect and a suspension will not take place until a 21-day grace period has taken place.

Can one individual provide track and trace details on behalf of an entire party?

No, the government guidance and regulations state that everybody should check in via the NHS QR code app or leave their details on entry. You must refuse entry to those who refuse to provide their details.

COVID-19: Licensed Premises Webinar

We sponsor a football team who come back after their matches for food, are they still subject to the rule of 6? Can food be served on a large platter for them to help themselves or do we still need to do single portions and hand these out individually?

The party would still be subject to the rule of six and food would need to be served individually. Buffets pose a greater risk of transmitting the virus between individuals and should be avoided. Full table service should be in operation.

If staff have received a negative result from a lateral flow test, do they still need to wear a face mask inside?

Yes, by law you are required to wear a face-covering inside the hospitality venue.

If a customer says they are exempt from wearing a face mask, but I think they are lying, am I allowed to ask them why?

You should explain what the requirements are and encourage visitors to comply with the regulations and wear face coverings. However, exemptions must be taken on face value. It may be a good idea to keep a supply of face-coverings to hand to supply those who do not have one with them.

Will I be told what my outdoor capacity will be?

This will be for the premises to decide. You need to look at the space available and how people can be safely managed within this area. You need to take into consideration social distancing and spacing tables 2m apart (or 1m with risk mitigation). Capacity numbers should be included within your risk assessment.

Can we continue to use vertical smoking areas and allow people to smoke whilst standing?

The OPSS have confirmed that the new replacement Regulations do not make reference to people smoking, only the ordering and consumption of food and drink whilst seated. We strongly advise that you have designated smoking tables for people to eat, drink and smoke. However, if you decide to use your vertical smoking areas, then you must ensure that persons do not eat or drink whilst doing so.