

Message from UK Men's Sheds Association



New restrictions on Lockdown in England

As you may be aware, the British government has announced a new restrictions in England for people meeting together. The number of people allowed to meet socially is being reduced from 30 to six. The rules state:

Venues following [COVID-19 secure guidelines](#) will be able to continue to host more people in total - such as religious services in places of worship - but no one should visit in a group of greater than 6. When you visit one of these places, such as a pub, shop, leisure venue, restaurant or place of worship you should:

- follow the limits on the number of other people you should meet with as a group - no more than six people unless you all live together (or are in the same support bubble)
- avoid social interaction with anyone outside the group you are with, even if you see other people you know
- provide your contact details to the organiser so that you can be contacted if needed by the [NHS Test and Trace programme](#)

So our understanding is that Sheds can continue to open and operate in England where they are Covid Secure.

Does this apply to Sheds?

Yes in England.

What does this mean to Sheds?

In the main, Sheds that are opening are running with small numbers on more days and so we hope this will not have a massively negative impact on Sheds.

Have shielding measures changed?

As far as we can tell – no. This is a government response to increases in positive cases, particularly in the younger age group of 20-39

What if we ignore the restrictions?

There are new fines being put in place for people who do not comply. The fines start at £100 for the first offence and double for each subsequent offence up to a maximum of £3,200.

Where does it not apply?

Pretty much everywhere. At the moment the list of exemptions are:

Education and work settings.

Weddings and funerals.

Teams sports organised in a Covid secure manner.

Where your support bubble is greater than six.

So we suggest that you keep to six people.

Does this apply in Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland?

Not yet. All home nations are on different paths with tackling Covid-19. It is a pattern however that they eventually align to a great extent.

What are UKMSA doing?

We will seek government advice and lobby where possible to keep Sheds active in a Covid secure way for those who wish to open/stay open. We are very much aware of the impact that closed Sheds have and are having.

What are the rules and guidance in other parts of the UK?

If you are meeting outside, the number of people who can gather varies:

In Scotland, up to 15 people from five different households can meet outdoors

In Wales, up to 30 people are allowed to see each other outdoors

In Northern Ireland, the maximum number of people who can meet outdoors has been reduced from 30 to 15

There are also different rules for meetings indoors - at your home, or a venue like a pub:

In Scotland, up to eight people from three different households

In Northern Ireland, up to six people from two households

In Wales, up to four households can form an "extended household"

What if I get symptoms?

You should self-isolate by staying at home for 10 days and arrange to get tested.

The symptoms are:

- new continuous cough
- high temperature
- loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell

If your test is positive, you must complete the remainder of your 10-day self-isolation. Anyone you live with should self-isolate for 14 days (from the time you started having symptoms).

Contact tracers will also get in touch with people with positive results.

For more information - visit

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-meeting-with-others-safely-social-distancing/coronavirus-covid-19-meeting-with-others-safely-social-distancing>