

**COVID-19 guidelines for groups of outdoor climbers & hill walkers**

First published 28 August 2020

Version 2

Version 2, published 08/09/2020

Appendix B – Correction of period of time the risk review must be stored for.

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**APPENDIX A**



**Organised outdoor group activity – Mitigating against the Risks - TEMPLATE**

Use this template form to help you understand the risks and any steps you need to take to stay safe before leading a meet with a group.

The form should be used in conjunction with the BMC guidance – Groups of Outdoor Climbers and Hill Walkers.

Complete a copy for every meet. Copies should be kept for 3 years after the date of the meet. For BMC events submit a copy to the BMC office

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Club/organisation name**  |  | **Date of activity** | *DD/MM/YY* |
| **Activity Organiser / Leader** |  | **Date of risk assessment** | *DD/MM/YY* |
| **Other volunteers**  |  | **Checked by Club COVID-19 Officer \*** | *DD/MM/YY* |
| **Location of activity** |  | **Submitted to BMC Office \*\*** | *DD/MM/YY* |

\* for clubs, see guidance 5.1

\*\* for BMC events, see guidance 2.1

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Risk of transmission of COVID-19** | **Who might be at risk of spreading COVID-19?** | **Ways to control the risk** | **Action taken** |
| **PRE-MEET (PLANNING)** |  |  |
| Through close contact with other people during the activity | ParticipantsMembers of the public | Consider planning the activity for a less busy time and/or at a quieter location. |  |
| Avoid particularly busy or narrow routes and locations where physical distancing is not possible. |  |
| Consider top-roping and/or single-pitch crags for climbing events |  |
| Give clear information about limiting the group size up to a maximum of 30 people |  |
| Remind participants beforehand about relevant current government guidelines. |  |
| Suggest participants bring hand sanitiser and/or anti-bacterial wipes. |  |
| Advise participants to provide their own equipment, such as small personal first aid kit, bothy bag / survival bag, and food and drink. |  |
| Remind members that if they have a shielding letter or if they have any of the symptoms of coronavirus, or live with someone with symptoms, they must not attend. |  |
| Ensure you have a record of who has booked on. |  |
| Through close contact with other people while travelling to / from the activity | ParticipantsMembers of the publicPublic transport staff | Remind participants of the current regulations regarding car sharing |  |
| Remind participants of the current regulations regarding face coverings on public transport |  |
| Consider a meeting venue with suitable parking – sufficient for the number of people attending while allowing for suitable distancing between members |  |
| **Risk of transmission of COVID-19** | **Who might be at risk of spreading COVID-19?** | **Ways to control the risk** | **Action taken** |
| **ON THE DAY** |  |  |  |
| Through close contact / meeting other people during the activity | ParticipantsMembers of the public | Brief participants at the start to maintain 2 metre social distancing – this is everyone’s responsibility. |  |
| Remind anyone with symptoms to go home / those that are not able to agree to the self-declaration statement (Appendix C). |  |
| Attendee numbers must not exceed government guidance (absolute maximum of 30 people), and must be appropriate to the style of activity, experience of participants and location used. |  |
| Brief participants what to do at any pinch points or road crossings to maintain social distancing. |  |
| Provide hand sanitiser, min 70% alcohol content / wipes on the day, and safe disposable bags for used wipes and gloves (gloves also need to be sanitised regularly) |  |
| Ensure you have a record of all those who took part. |  |
| Through close contact with other people when dealing with incidents / accidents | ParticipantsMembers of the publicEmergency services, including Mountain Rescue Teams | Advise the group to stay within their competency level, whether climbing, walking, scrambling or mountaineering to reduce the risk of incidents happening. |  |
| Advise members to use their own first aid kit for personal use where possible. |  |
| Leaders to carry PPE which must be worn for first aid treatment; mask, apron, surgical gloves and safety glasses or goggles. |  |
| Minimise those who need to carry out first aid to essential first aiders only, to minimise close contact with a casualty.  |  |
| Carry additional bags to securely wrap any disposed/used first aid equipment and associated PPE used. |  |
| Ensure you are up-to-date with current guidance about administering first aid. |  |
| Through touching gates, stiles, fences or equipment | ParticipantsMembers of the public | Avoid touching gates and path furniture where possible. |  |
| Suggest participants use their own hand sanitiser and/or anti-bacterial wipes and use regularly. |  |
| Advise participants to only use their own equipment, such as maps, compasses and walking poles, and not to share with those outside of their household. |  |
| Do not share group shelters or bothy bags |  |
| Advise participants not to share food and drink. |  |
| **Risk of transmission of COVID-19** | **Who might be at risk of spreading COVID-19?** | **Ways to control the risk** | **Action taken** |
|  **ON THE DAY, CONTINUED…** |  |  |
| Through touching climbing equipment | ParticipantsClimbing partner | Avoid sharing of climbing equipment - for novice meets / training ensure that there are sufficient helmets, harnesses, and krabs with belay plates for each person |  |
| Inform participants of the potential risks associated with touching shared climbing hardware– protection and quickdraws – while on a route and recommend a regime of using hand sanitiser (or anti-bacterial wipes) before and after each route. |  |
| Inform participants of the risks associated with putting gear in the mouth whilst placing gear / clipping ropes. |  |
|  **AFTER THE EVENT** |  |  |
|  | Participants | Remind participants that should they present any COVID-19 symptoms, or become symptomatic, after the activity that it is essential for them to report this to the NHS Test & Trace service. Ask them to inform yourself as well |  |
| Keep a record of everyone taking part (names and contact details) in case this is needed for contact tracing. You must keep this record securely and delete or destroy it after 21 days |  |
| *Please add more lines if needed* |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

**How to review the risks**

This template is a tool to help you plan and lead a group while abiding by the regulations relating to COVID-19. You must complete this for each group activity.

* Use the template to assess whether your activity is safe to go ahead.
* Think about the different types of hazards, the risks and any solutions to minimise the risk. We’ve included some common examples, but think carefully about your own activity in case anything needs adding that would place you, or the participants, or members of the public at greater risk of transmission of COVID-19.

Examples of other risks might include:

* + Flooding, after heavy rain, leading to the use of alternative paths where social distancing may be difficult
	+ Incoming tide for coastal routes, start time adjustments required
	+ Unexploded ordnance (if walking on a right of way across a military site) requiring additional pre-activity briefing to avoid a higher risk of injury.
* We've included some suggestions for ways to control the risks and you are welcome to amend the document to fit better with the type of activities that you run - **you do not need to tick/answer every box**. The important thing is to identify potential hazards and note the actions you will take to reduce the risk.
* It’s important to undertake a risk review **before** the activity takes place. You should start filling it out when planning your activity, and update it with any extra hazards that you notice as you complete your preparations.

**This isn’t an exhaustive list, so think carefully about any specific risks you may encounter during your activity.**

If you have any questions about

**Club Meets**, get in touch with Jane Thompson jane@thebmc.co.uk

**BMC Youth events or Equity events**, get in touch with James McHaffie james@thebmc.co.uk

**Access or Conservation** events in **England**, get in touch with Rob Dyer robd@thebmc.co.uk

**Access or Conservation** events in **Wales**, get in touch with Elfyn Jones elfyn@thebmc.co.uk

**BMC Hill walking events,** get in touch with Rob Bishop robb@thebmc.co.uk

**APPENDIX B**

**COVID-19 Officer / Coronavirus Officer – BMC-affiliated Clubs**

**DESCRIPTION OF ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Each club based in Wales should appoint a COVID-19 OFFICER to meet the Welsh Government guidance for organised outdoor activity for groups.

Clubs based in England may also wish to appoint someone to a similar position.

This role is predominantly focused on actions required to ensure that their club is compliant with regulations relating to COVID-19 and club meets. If your club has a hut you may choose to include hut-related actions within the role, but that is not part of the requirement to meet the Welsh Government guidance.

**RESPONSIBILITIES**

* The COVID-19 OFFICER will be the key implementer and central point of contact for all matters relating to COVID-19 and club meets.
* The COVID-19 OFFICER will oversee the implementation of the club’s return to meets arrangements by addressing the *BMC* *Guidelines for Groups of Outdoor Climbers & Hill Walkers* guidance.
* The COVID-19 OFFICER will fulfil the role of liaising with the BMC, other clubs, relevant local and national organisations and other relevant stakeholders as required in relation to the club’s response to COVID-19.

**ACTIONS**

* Review the *BMC Guidelines for Groups of Outdoor Climbers & Hill Walkers* guidance and act to implement the actions, or arrange for their implementation.
* Document the justifications for not undertaking particular actions.
* Ensure that a risk review is undertaken and submitted by meet organisers before each meet. Store a copy of the risk review for 12 months.
* Ensure participants undertake the self-declaration check.
* Ensure that registers of attendance (including participants, leaders and volunteers) at club meets are maintained in accordance with government advice. Store a copy of the registers, in line with data protection regulations, for 21 days after the meet.
* Assist authorities in *Track, Trace, Protect* (Wales) and *Test and Trace* (England) procedures if requested.
* Regularly review the club’s response to each element of guidance and amend, update or improve as necessary. Update the club committee on actions taken, or to be taken, in relation to COVID-19.
* Direct any leaders, volunteers or members towards suitable COVID-19 training as required.
* Operate as the point of contact for the club in relation to communication with & from the BMC.
* Act as the contact point for your club’s members – particularly around questions relating to return to sport and the actions your club has taken to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

**APPENDIX C**

**Self-declaration prior to permitting people to participate in group activities (Wales)**

Applicable for all clubs or organisations based in Wales and for any club or other organisation undertaking an activity / meet in Wales.

The following is advice from the [Welsh Sports Association](https://wsa.wales/) in adhering to the Welsh Government requirement for checks that need to be undertaken prior to groups undertaking outdoor activities in Wales.

*Guidance suggests that all participants and other attendees need to self-certify their Covid-19 status. We advise that you do NOT ask specific questions about their having had symptoms or a positives test or such like as this will amount to processing health information that is not allowed under data protection laws.*

*Instead we suggest that the potential participant is asked to either agree or disagree with a prepared statement that covers all the required aspects of the self-assessment in line with the advice.*

Wording provided by Public Health Wales:

* *I do not currently have symptoms of COVID-19 (new persistent dry cough, fever, loss of taste or smell)*
* *I have not had a positive test for COVID-19 or onset of symptoms of COVID-19 in the last 10 days. (Individuals who have completed their period of isolation (10 days) and have no remaining symptoms (other than a dry cough or loss of taste or smell which can last for some time) may return to normal activities)*
* *No member of my household has had symptoms of COVID-19 or has tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 14 days*
* *I have not been contacted by a contact tracer from the Test, Trace and Protect Programme and told to isolate in the last 14 days as a contact of someone with confirmed COVID-19*
* *I have not returned from a country outside of the UK in the last 14 days, other than those on the exempt list* (<https://gov.wales/exemptions-self-isolation-coronavirus-covid-19-html>)

*When taking bookings - You should display this statement on any booking form and the participant must agree to the statement to be able to book. You may use a checkbox on a web form to indicate the participant has read and can agree to the statement. The statement can be agreed to verbally if booking by telephone after having it read out to them. In the case of a minor, the guardian will be required to indicate the truth of the statement on the child’s behalf.*

*At the event - It is VERY IMPORTANT that upon arrival, all participants (or guardians as appropriate) are shown the statement and can still agree with it. If they cannot agree, they must leave immediately. Remember that some time may have elapsed between booking and the event and their circumstances may have changed.*

*You should place the statement clearly on signage and the Responsible Person (Covid Officer / Meet Leader etc) should ensure that everyone looks at it and can agree to it.*

**ADDITIONAL ADVICE**

NHS staff – if your group includes NHS staff who may have contact with Covid patients as part of their work they should be permitted to engage in group sporting activities. The advice we have received on this, is that if they were wearing recommended PPE (as they should have been) they will not be classed as contacts for the purpose of self-declaration.

Diagnosis – it is for the individual participant to answer the questions, not the leader – do not ‘diagnose’ people ‘symptoms’. If someone has a cough, it means that they have a cough which can be caused by many things, it doesn’t mean that they have Covid19.