

FAQ's

The Youth Work Sector Covid guidance issued and updated throughout the Covid-19 pandemic have been removed by the Minister so that organisation may now deliver services in line with limited public health measures in place at any time.

Companies should operate in line with public health measures as follows:

- *Continue to follow the public health advice for symptoms, cases and contacts*
- *Continue to follow the basic public health measures in relation to hand washing/sanitising, cough etiquette, adequate ventilation, etc*
- *Continue to be risk aware and wear masks, practice physical distancing and avoid crowded environments based on a risk assessment for the company.*

Outdoor Activities

Q. Is there absolute maximum you can have at outdoor activities?

There are no restrictions on numbers attending outdoor youth activities, however all activities (indoor and outdoor) should adhere to the appropriate adult to child supervision ratios laid out in the Child Safeguarding Policy.

Q. What must company do before organising an outdoor activity or resume indoor activities?

Where a company has already not done so, they should complete the Covid-19 Ready Risk Assessment and Company Action log or where this has already been completed for the session this should be reviewed as part of the planning for the activity. A risk assessment of the activity should also be completed.

Activities

Q. Will all Companies have to re-open at the same time?

A. No, once a Company has completed their risk assessments and are happy with the guidelines provided they can go ahead and re-open when they so choose. You will need the buy in from Parents, Leaders and the Church but each Company may have a unique situation.

Q. Would horse-work and trampette be an acceptable activity?

A. Each company which wishes to undertake horse-work and trampette should assess whether it is possible to do this activity whilst being risk aware and ensuring the safety of all involved in such an activity.

Q. What kind of activities will be available for all sections??

A. Regional HQ is providing termly programme packs to each section in each company for the autumn, spring and summer terms. Also the Programme Hub on the Brigade website has a huge range of activities for all sections.

Q. Can Members participate in high respiratory activities indoors and outdoors?

A. Yes but indoors the venue should be kept well ventilated.

Q. What are the BB guidelines for contact sports?

A. Allowed to take place. The equipment should be sanitised before and after use. Hand sanitising should happen before and after the activity takes place.

Remember to keep a high circulation of fresh air in your halls.

Finance

Q. What do we report to our local ETB now that we can no longer use the grant for the original purpose?

A. Need to keep an open dialogue with your local ETB and let them know that you may spend/ will spend the grant on PPE, mats to outline social distancing in your Parish hall etc.

Q. Can Parent's pay their child's subscriptions through OBM?

A. No, however another form of providing a non-handling of cash would be to provide parents with the Company's bank details so that they can transfer it electronically.

Carpooling

Q. Can Leaders/ Parents provide a carpooling service to their Members?

A. Yes but leaders/parents should use their personal responsibility to judge as to whether everyone wears a mask, high frequency areas are cleaned before and after vacating the vehicle and there is adequate ventilation. It is also down to how comfortable Leaders/ parents who usually carpool feel.

Public Health Measures

Q. Do companies need to continue to divide members into pods?

A. No, it is no longer required to divide members into pods. You will need to remember the adult: child ratios laid out in the Child Safeguarding Policy and ensure that they are adhered to.

Q. Do companies still have to ensure members and leaders socially distance?

A. The need for 2m social distancing between members and leaders has been removed, however overcrowded venues should be avoided and there should be adequate space for those who wish to social distance.

Q. Do companies still need to do enhanced cleaning of the venue before BB meets?

A. Yes there is still a need to clean the high frequency points, toilet facilities (and kitchen facilities, if being used) and any tables, chairs and equipment within the hall before your Members attend BB.

Q. Do companies still need to ensure leaders and members wash hands or sanitise hands at BB?

A. Yes hand washing and sanitising continues to be a vital part of public health measures and facilities should be provided for members and leaders to wash their hands or sanitise their hands on arrival, departure and regularly during the BB meeting.

Q. Do leaders or members need to continue to wear masks at BB?

A. Whilst there is no legal requirement for leaders or members of Juniors, Company and Seniors to wear masks at BB activities, each individual company can decide if they wish leaders and members to continue to wear masks or whether they will leave that decision to individual leaders or members.

It is imperative that where leaders or members wish to continue to wear masks, they should not be discouraged from doing so.

Training

Q. Will the Training Team provide training for leaders in the coming months?

A. The Training Team are ready to provide training for leaders and is willing to provide this on a company-by-company basis to meet the needs of the leaders in individual companies. Where a company wants training, the Company Captain/Correspondent should contact Training Director, Alan Privett.

Q. Will The Rol Safeguarding Panel provide Child Safeguarding Training for new Leaders in the coming Session or for those who need to re-do the course?

A. We will continue to offer Child Safeguarding Training throughout the session, these may be provided as either an online Zoom training course or face to face (when permitted), please email Jenny in HQ to request training and provide numbers.

Vetting

Q. Can Garda Vetting still be processed during this time?

A. Yes, please send the completed vetting forms (NVB1) to Jenny in HQ, along with 2 forms of I.D (* Public Service cards are no longer accepted). It is advised to have your Leaders vetted or re-vetted before you re-open.

Virtual Sessions

Q. Can a company continue to run Virtual Sessions and do we need consent for this.

A. Yes companies can continue to run virtual sessions. In the communication to parents, whatsapp/email, parents need to reply to opt in and that will act as the consent. Please refer to the Rol's Virtual Sessions Guidelines. <https://boysbrigade.ie/wpcontent/uploads/2020/08/Virtual-Sessions-Guidelines.pdf>

You will need to keep a record of the parent's consent:

Permission given by:

Date:

Platform of communication: