

## Isle Abbotts Village Hall:

### Covid Risk Assessment FIFTH DRAFT 7 May 2021

The Village Hall Committee produced a Covid Risk Assessment Policy in September 2020, which went through several drafts as government advice changed. Eventually the hall was closed to all activity on November 5<sup>th</sup> and remained closed during the latest lockdown period in 2021. From 12 April 2021 non-essential retail shops were opened, as were many public buildings. Hospitality venues could serve people outdoors too. It was therefore decided to hold a Coffee and Chat morning outside in the garden of the hall on Wednesday May 5<sup>th</sup>. The Rule of Six applied to tables and coffee was served. This was a success and further coffee mornings will now continue on the first Wednesday of each month (next one June 2<sup>nd</sup>). With the easing of restrictions on Monday May 17<sup>th</sup> indoor use of the hall can recommence but a maximum number of people in the hall is currently set at 30 by government regulations. It is hoped to recommence Tai Chi on May 17<sup>th</sup> but confirmation will follow.


The Village Hall Committee reiterates that we are a registered charity. Our hall is a Covid Secure venue and it is a public building as regards government policies. We can therefore announce that the hall is now officially open again but stress the following guidelines for all users:-

1. **First and foremost - the over-riding regulation is that if anyone is unwell and showing symptoms of Covid, they should NOT come to any events organised by the village hall!**
2. a) Everyone should wear a mask on entering the hall, removing it either to eat/drink or engage in activity where the mask would inhibit the activity (as previously regulated: e.g. Tai Chi); masks should be put back on to visit toilet or to exit the building.
  - b) Once you are seated at a safe social distance in your group of 6, you should not move around and mingle with other groups.
  - c) Cleaning and Hygiene: Toilets remain open at the hall. Good handwashing techniques and plenty of soap are encouraged in the 2 toilets. Disposable paper towels have been purchased. The lobby area outside the toilets has a floor area of 4.65m<sup>2</sup>, which allows only 2 people to wait outside and a Social Distancing sign has been put up. We have purchased suitable hand-sanitising equipment. A wall-mounted touchless **hand-sanitiser** has been installed at the main entrance door. Simpler pump action dispensers are also available within the hall. A 4 litre hand gel container has been purchased.
  - d) When practical, be prepared to bring your own drinks and glasses. Careful washing of crockery after Coffee Mornings will be required. The virus cannot live on hard surfaces for long periods but the principle of clean crockery and cutlery at all times is important.
  - e) The maximum capacity inside our hall is set at 30 people from 17 May until government regulations are eased again.
  - f) It was decided at the AGM that in future one door be designated the ENTRANCE door (Porch door) and another the EXIT door (the ramp door) – just to discourage people bumping into one another. These doors are now clearly signed as such. Queues are discouraged and social distance signage is

employed. Nicely printed adhesive stickers have been purchased and put in place.

- g) Outdoor events: The hall's garden (240m<sup>2</sup> in area) can accommodate at least 80 people in a socially distant way but large events can only take place under Step 4 of the Roadmap (June 21<sup>st</sup>).

3. The most helpful government advice (detailing what you can and can't do) is to be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-response-spring-2021/covid-19-response-spring-2021-summary>  
This is dated 22 February 2021 and the screenshot (*below*) is relevant to us:

 COVID-19 Response - Spring 2021 (Summary) - GOV.UK

As part of Step 3, no earlier than 17 May, the government will look to continue easing limits on seeing friends and family wherever possible, allowing people to decide on the appropriate level of risk for their circumstances.

This means that most legal restrictions on meeting others outdoors will be lifted - although gatherings of over 30 people will remain illegal. Indoors, the Rule of 6 or 2 households will apply - we will keep under review whether it is safe to increase this.

As soon as possible and by no later than Step 3, we will also update the advice on social distancing between friends and family, including hugging. But until this point, people should continue to keep their distance from anyone not in their household or support bubble.

### **Business and activities**

Most businesses in all but the highest risk sectors will be able to reopen. In all sectors, COVID-Secure guidance will remain in place and businesses may not cater for groups bigger than the legal limits. Indoor hospitality will reopen - and as in Step 2, venues will not have to serve a substantial meal with alcoholic drinks; nor will there be a curfew. Customers will, however, have to order, eat and drink while seated.

Other indoor locations to open up in Step 3 include indoor entertainment venues such as cinemas and children's play areas; the rest of the accommodation sector, including hotels, hostels and B&Bs; and indoor adult group sports and exercise classes. The government will also allow some larger performances and sporting events in indoor venues with a capacity of 1,000 people or half-full (whichever is a lower number), and in outdoor venues with a capacity of 4,000 people or half-full (whichever is a lower number). In the largest outdoor seated venues, where crowds can be spread out, up to 10,000 people will be able to attend (or a quarter-full, whichever is lower).

### **Events**

Up to 30 people will be able to attend weddings, receptions and wakes, as well as funerals. This limit will also apply to other types of significant life events including bar mitzvahs and christenings.

Village Hall Committee 7 May 2021