

## **General advice regarding lockdown, starting on Thursday 5 November 2020, for volunteering involving organisations.**

The Prime Minister has announced tougher national restrictions in England from Thursday 5 November. As a result, you may have questions around what these new restrictions will mean for volunteering.

### **The implications of these new restrictions for volunteering are outlined below.**

Where possible, people should volunteer from home. However, if they cannot do so, they can volunteer outside their home if:

- They follow the social distancing guidance
- No one in their household has coronavirus symptoms
- No one has tested positive for COVID-19.

Voluntary and charitable activities are exempt from a number of the new restrictions. This means that, where volunteers are able to volunteer outside their home (see above) they can:

- meet in groups of any size indoors or outdoors while volunteering
- travel to the volunteer location or during the period of volunteering

As always, it should be a volunteer's personal choice whether they wish to volunteer, including outside their home, and they should not be compelled to do so by their organisation or group.

Organisations which involve volunteers in day to day tasks must ensure the locations meet coronavirus safety standards.

### **In short -**

The guidance is that if a venue or site has not been told to close and the volunteering that happens there cannot be done from home, then it is permitted to continue at the venue or site. This is the same as for paid work.

However, you may choose yourself to close or stand down your volunteers even if you haven't been legally compelled to.

The Government guidance pages will be updated when the new rules come into effect. You can access them here - [www.gov.uk/guidance/new-national-restrictions-from-5-november](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/new-national-restrictions-from-5-november) and Barnsley CVS advises you to check regularly.

*For further advice around COVID-19 safe risk assessments, please contact [Janette.Walker@barnsleycvs.org.uk](mailto:Janette.Walker@barnsleycvs.org.uk)*



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People over the age of 60 and those who are clinically vulnerable could be at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19. This group do not face any specific restrictions on volunteering but may need additional support to follow social distancing rules and measures to minimise contact with others.

There is a further group of people who are defined, on medical grounds, as Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) to COVID-19. CEV people are advised against volunteering outside their home.

Guidance for CEV people is available via the updated government site here - [www.gov.uk/guidance/new-national-restrictions-from-5-november#protecting-people-more-at-risk-from-coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/new-national-restrictions-from-5-november#protecting-people-more-at-risk-from-coronavirus) and the Government will write to everybody who is Clinically Extremely Vulnerable to set out detailed advice while the new restrictions are in place.

Further guidance will be available from Barnsley CVS shortly, to help you understand how to involve volunteers safely during the Coronavirus pandemic.