

Coronavirus – Social Distancing Guidance

Updated on 25th September 2020 (All services)

Each UK nation is advising people to stay 2m (6ft) away from anyone they don't live with. However, there are some differences:

- In **England**, if it's not possible to be 2m away, you can stay "1m plus" apart. The "plus" means doing something else to limit your possible exposure - like wearing a face covering.
- In **Scotland**, there are exemptions to the 2m rule in some places - such as pubs and restaurants. Children aged 11 or under do not need to social distance.
- In **Wales**, the 2m guidance reflects the fact that it's not realistic to stay that far apart somewhere like a hairdressers. Primary age children in Wales are also exempt. England, Scotland and Wales have reduced the number of people allowed to meet socially due to a rise in coronavirus cases.

What are the new rules on socialising?

In England, there is a new limit of six people from multiple households. This applies to both indoors and outdoors, and to all ages. The rule of six now applies to indoor team sports.


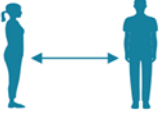

So, gatherings in private homes, venues like pubs and restaurants, and in outdoor spaces like parks will all be affected.

In Scotland, the numbers outdoors are reduced to a maximum of six people aged 12+ from two households and no household limit for groups of six aged 12 to 18, **No social visits are to take place at any private homes**

In Wales there is a new limit of six people, who must all belong to the same extended household group, but this will only apply indoors. The rule will not apply to children aged 11 or under. Up to 30 people can still meet outdoors.

More information about current guidance can be found ([here](#)) for Scotland and ([here](#)) for Wales.

Rules and guidance on meeting up

	England	Scotland	Wales	Northern Ireland
 <p>How many people outdoors?</p>	Six from multiple households	Up to six aged 12+ from two households No household limit for groups of six aged 12 to 18	Up to 30 outdoors	Six from two households in a private garden Up to 15 people in public spaces
 <p>At what distance?</p>	1m 'plus'	2m apart (less in some premises)	2m apart – age 11+ only (less in some premises)	2m apart
 <p>Indoors</p>	Six from multiple households	No social visits to private homes Up to six aged 12+ from two households at other venues	Four households can form one 'extended household' - maximum of six aged 11+ together at one time	No social visits to private homes Up to 15 people at other venues

BBC

England – contextual information

On 22nd the government issued [Coronavirus-covid-19-meeting-with-others-safely-social-distancing/coronavirus-covid-19-meeting-with-others-safely-social-distancing](#).

When seeing friends and family you do not live with you should:

- follow social distancing rules
- limit how many different people you see socially over a short period of time
- meet people outdoors where practical: meeting people outdoors is safer than meeting people indoors because fresh air provides better ventilation

You do not need to socially distance from anyone in your household, meaning the people you live with.

You also do not need to socially distance from someone you're in an established relationship with, or anyone in your legally-permitted [support bubble](#) if you are in one.

Limits on the number of people you can see socially have changed. When meeting friends and family you do not live with (or have formed a support bubble with) you must not meet in a group of more than 6, indoors or outdoors. [This is against the law](#) and the police will have the powers to enforce these legal limits, including to issue fines (fixed penalty notices) of £200, doubling for further breaches up to a maximum of £6,400.

There are exceptions where groups can be larger than 6 people. These include:

- for work, or the provision of voluntary or charitable services
- registered childcare, education or training
- supervised activities provided for children, including wraparound care, youth groups and activities, and children's playgroups
- providing support to a vulnerable person
- providing emergency assistance, and to avoid injury or illness or to escape risk of harm
- for arrangements where children do not live in the same household as both their parents
- fulfilling a legal obligation, such as attending court or jury service
- elite sporting competition and training
- wedding and civil partnership ceremonies and receptions – up to 15 people
- funerals – up to 30 people. This does not include wakes, other than for religious ceremonial purposes
- exercise classes, organised outdoor sport or licensed outdoor physical activity, and supervised sporting activity (indoors or outdoors) for under-18s
- indoor organised team sports for disabled people
- support groups of up to 15 participants – formally organised groups to provide mutual aid, therapy or any other form of support. This includes support to victims of crime, recovering addicts, new parents, people with long-term illnesses, those facing issues relating to their sexuality or gender, and those who have suffered bereavement.
- protests – if organised in compliance with COVID-19 Secure guidance. All individuals must be socially distanced

Where a group includes someone covered by such an exception (for example, someone who is working), they are not counted as part of the gatherings limit. This means, for example, a tradesperson can go into a household of six without breaching the limit, if they are there for work.

More information can be found on [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page.