In the last week, the UK Government has made announcements regarding further restrictions as a result of the rising Covid-19 case numbers. The devolved nations have also introduced new measures in an effort to control the virus and drive down the infection rate.

Whilst many of the changes do not impact directly on the leisure sector, some do, and in this information brief, we highlight the key measures that affect our clients.

NHS Covid-19 App

As hopefully you’ll be aware from our last Information Brief or through the media, the NHS COVID-19 App was being launched on 24th September. By supporting the system, you’ll be protecting your customers, visitors and your business.

Leisure facilities must register to download a poster containing a unique QR code and then display the poster prominently at the entrance to the venue.

To register follow this link: HERE

The app is part of the Covid-19 testing and contact tracing programme called the NHS Test and Trace service in England and the NHS Wales Test, Trace, Protect service in Wales. The app will be used, alongside traditional contact tracing, to alert users if they come into contact with someone who later tests positive for Covid-19, if local public health teams think this is necessary.

The app allows people to report symptoms, order a test, 'check in' to venues by scanning a QR code and it helps the NHS trace individuals that may have Covid-19. The 'check-in' feature supports this functionality by anonymously alerting users who have been at the same venue at the same time.
A guide on how to create a QR poster for your venue can also be found in this link: HERE

Multi-site operators may choose to register all venues at the same time – note: you will need the postcode and a contact email address for each site.

Once you have completed the registration (which only takes a few minutes), you will be sent the poster by email. This will be unique to the postcode provided on registration. The poster must be displayed in all entrances to the site. For details of how to display it, please follow this link: HERE

The system does not replace your existing booking system or other system where you are capturing contact details for customers. You are not going to know if users have scanned the QR code or not and so currently booking systems should remain in place anyway, even if this means both are used. In addition not everyone has a smart phone and therefore you will still need to have the ability to record contact details in the event that you are contacted by NHS Test and Trace.

Records for these purposes must be destroyed after 21 days. In addition, you must keep contact details of visitors and contractors, again, destroying them after 21 days.

You must also ensure you are capturing details of employees on site, including their start and finish times. This will normally be done via staff signing in/out forms.

If you currently use a QR system for booking purposes, you should switch to the NHS system or clearly explain to customers that you are using more than one system.

For general information and common questions, please see: HERE

There are also Covid-19 tracing apps in other nations.
For further information see:

- Scotland: HERE
- Northern Ireland: HERE
- Republic of Ireland: HERE

### Indoor Sport

In England, new rules are in place relating to indoor and outdoor sport as follows:

- Indoor organised sport for over 18s are no longer exempt from the rule of six.
- Organised outdoor sport or licensed outdoor physical activity, and supervised sporting activity (indoors or outdoors) for under 18s can occur in groups of greater than six.
- Organised indoor sport or exercise classes can also take place in larger numbers, provided groups of more than six do not mix.
- Organised indoor team sports for disabled people can take place in any number.

Please also see CIMSPA’s updated guidance – click: HERE

Recent changes in restrictions in the other nations have no impact on indoor or outdoor sport and physical activity.
Food and Drink

Further measures were also announced relating to businesses selling food and drink in England. The guidelines state:

“From 24 September, businesses selling food or drink (including cafes, bars, pubs and restaurants), social clubs, casinos, bowling alleys, amusement arcades (and other indoor leisure centres or facilities), funfairs, theme parks, and adventure parks and activities, and bingo halls, must be closed between 10pm and 5am.

Your facility may remain open after 10pm, however, you must ensure your café/bar/restaurant is closed by 10pm.

The guidance also states:

“In both indoor and outdoor licensed premises, food and drink must be ordered from, and served at, a table.”

Please note that the above states ‘licensed’ premises and therefore ordering from the counter in non-licensed premises is permitted. That said, all sites should endeavour to implement full table service where possible to avoid pinch points at café counters and serveries.

The guidance also states:

“Licensed and unlicensed businesses must also take all reasonable steps to ensure that the customer remains seated whilst consuming the food or drink on the premises.”

Restrictions relating to 10pm closure of food and drink venues also apply in Scotland and Wales.
FACE COVERINGS

Currently, we have seen no evidence that the previous exemption (in England) relating to face coverings in leisure centres and gyms has been removed.

Please refer to our Information Brief – Issue 8 on Face Coverings – click: HERE

However, it is now a requirement for customers to wear a face covering in bars, cafes and restaurants unless they are eating and drinking. It is also a requirement for staff to wear a face covering in these areas.

The guidance states

“From 24 September, it will be compulsory for retail, leisure and hospitality staff to wear a face covering in areas that are open to the public and where they come or are likely to come within close contact of a member of the public.”

Businesses are required to promote compliance with these requirements.

This may imply that face coverings should be worn in other public areas within your facilities.

Bearing in mind people are used to wearing face coverings in many indoor spaces now, we advise that it would be good practice to encourage both staff and customers to wear face coverings in public areas. However, you should consider, and risk assess certain roles, for example when lifeguards are supervising a pool, as a face covering in this area may not be appropriate due to the heat and humidity. Consideration should also be given to other roles such as instructors when they are taking a class.

There have been no recent changes to the rules relating to face coverings in the other nations. Please see our Information Brief – Issue 10 – click: HERE for a summary of the rules.
FIRST AID AT WORK AND OTHER QUALIFICATIONS

The HSE have further extended the period of validity for first aid qualifications:

"FAW or EFAW certificates that expired after 16 March 2020 can remain valid until 31 October 2020 or 6 months from date of expiry, whichever is later. All requalification training for these certificates should be completed by 31 March 2021"

However, there are some qualifications and requirements for the extension. For more information please refer to the HSE website. Click: HERE

The STA and RLSS have also extended some of their qualifications, however, different criteria applies for different awards, including FAW, lifeguarding and pool plant. We therefore advise you to contact your awarding body to confirm requirements for any extension.

LOCAL AND NATIONAL RESTRICTIONS

Our team at Right Directions is committed to keeping you up to date with changes in each UK nation, however, we also recommend you refer to your devolved administration website to keep informed of any updates.

With more ‘local’ restrictions being applied across all nations, it is important that you comply with local rules, as these will override national rules. Local restrictions will be published on the relevant government website and may also be published on the local authority website.

Our Recommended Action For You

If you haven’t done so already, register your facility for the NHS COVID-19 app and download the poster containing the QR code (England and Wales only). Display the poster in a prominent position(s) at the entrance to your facility.

Ensure you maintain your existing measures for capturing and recording contact details for customers, visitors, contractors and staff.

Note the guidance on indoor and outdoor sport - do not take bookings for over 18s for more than six people and ensure groups of more than six do not mix.

Ensure cafes, bars and restaurants are closed between 10pm and 5am and a table service is in operation in licensed premises and as far as possible in non-licensed premises.

Ensure face coverings are worn in cafes, bars and restaurants by both staff and customers (unless they are eating or drinking). Consider use of face coverings for both staff and customers in other public areas.

• Note the extension to first aid qualifications, ensuring you are able to demonstrate the criteria set out by the HSE.

Keep up to date and comply with local restrictions where applicable.

If you need any help with the management of Covid-19 (Coronavirus) in your workplace, please do not hesitate to contact us at:
info@rightdirections.co.uk or call 01582 840098

Right Directions
quality and safety