

COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions



These FAQs and scenarios have been put together based on the webinars GB held for leaders regarding our COVID-19 guidance. They should be read in addition to our guidance documents.

Guidance and paperwork

1) Where are the following on the GB website:

GB's COVID-19 guidance, checklist and risk assessment templates:

<https://www.girlsbrigadeministries.org.uk/resource/covid-19-resuming-gb-community-group-activities-guidance/>

GB's COVID-19 Life to the Full slides: <http://leaders.gbwmembers.org.uk/admin/resource/life-to-the-full>

Julie Murdy's training video, a video for churches, and a template letter for parents: coming soon

2) Where can I see what readiness level we're operating at?

From September, this information will be displayed on GB's website at

<https://www.girlsbrigadeministries.org.uk/resource/covid-19-resuming-gb-community-group-activities-guidance/> and currently it can be found on the National Youth Agency website at <https://nya.org.uk/guidance>. If the readiness level changes we'll send an email to all GB leaders. Please note that any local or regional changes put in place to manage the spread of COVID-19 would take precedence.

3) Where can I see the National Youth Agency video that was showed as part of the webinars?

<https://nya.org.uk/guidance/>

4) Will GB's guidance change?

The COVID-19 situation is changing rapidly so things might change. For this reason we'd advise visiting the guidance page on the website whenever you need to check something so you'll always see the latest version of our guidance. Each version will have a version number and date of issue. If we make any significant changes we'll send an email to all GB's leaders.

5) If we're doing GB@home or sessions on Zoom, is it ok for the children and young people's consent forms to be at a leaders' house or on their computer?

This is ok as long as the forms are not publicly accessible e.g. you have them secured in your home and on a password-protected file on your computer.

6) Given the circumstances, is it ok for the annual consent forms to be signed electronically so parents can email them back?

Yes – they can be signed in person once it is safe to do so.

7) Are we insured if we don't follow the guidance?

Our insurers have checked our guidance and approved it. If groups don't follow our guidance it will affect how much our insurers charge us and therefore how much we'd need groups to pay us!

8) Why is GB's guidance different from my workplace/local school/nursery etc.?

GB's guidance is based on the National Youth Agency's guidance which all uniformed youth organisations are being asked to follow in England by the government. Our guidance has also been updated to include guidance for youth work issued by the Welsh government. It may vary slightly from schools/nurseries/workplaces etc.

Fixed Groups and social distancing

1) Can you explain the 'fixed groups' concept again?

- At the amber readiness level, which we're currently at, from September you can have groups of up to 15, including leaders, meeting indoors as long as they observe social distancing
- Groups of up to 15, plus leaders may also meet outdoors in England and, in Wales, groups of up to 30 including leaders may meet outdoors
- These groups are 'fixed' for the day but we recommend sticking to them if you can
- It's advisable to have siblings in the same fixed group and leaders with their own children/family members, if applicable, and where possible. You may have to be flexible for a few months to work with different age groups to those you'd be with usually
- The Team Leader can't be in all fixed groups!
- Young Leaders can help with younger children or be in their own age section – they can't do both on the same day
- Other adults could be on the premises, e.g. keyholders as long as they don't come into contact with the fixed groups but it would be good to avoid this where possible
- Remember that safeguarding still needs to be taken into consideration.
- See the latest NYA Amber Aware guidance for more detail – www.nya.org.uk/guidance

2) Isn't social distancing now one metre?

No – it can only be one metre if you have in place things like PPE, screens, and back to back working. So we're sticking to the government mandated social distancing which is still currently two metres. In Wales, for young children (those of primary school age or younger), it's less essential to attempt to rigidly maintain continual 2 metre distance between them, or between the children and any adults outside their household or extended household. Care should be taken to

encourage children to follow hand hygiene measures and keep close contact to a minimum wherever possible.

3) If my hall is really large, can I have two fixed groups in the one hall?

No – the NYA guidance says spaces can only be used at one time by one fixed group.

4) Can we have more than one fixed group meeting at the same time if we're in different halls?

Yes, as long as your venue is large enough and has put in place all the measures outlined in the guidance. It's not necessary for each fixed group to use separate toilets; however, efforts should be made to limit the numbers of users at a given time. Use of different toilets for each fixed group is ideal. Please consider safeguarding concerns when planning and preparing your risk assessments. Shared spaces such as kitchens, etc. must be deep cleaned thoroughly between use if different fixed groups are to use them on the same day (sequentially). Spaces should not be used at the same time by more than one fixed group.

5) Do we need to wear masks?

Face coverings for over 11s and adults should be worn for indoor activities. This has changed from version 1 of our guidance due to the government making it mandatory. If you've already had your COVID-19 risk assessment approved, you don't need to send it back to us but you should update your documents to reflect the changes.

6) What do we do about car sharing or using a minibus?

You should ensure that you maintain social distancing in cars and minibuses. All drivers and passengers should wear a face covering. Consider whether this is an activity that can be sustained if social distancing measures cannot be maintained. All vehicles should be thoroughly cleaned after use.

7) We need to change how our group meets to meet the guidance, is this ok?

Yes – we understand that groups may need to shorten sessions or meet in fixed smaller groups on more than one evening or meet on alternate evenings. You can change how you work to meet the guidance.

Online GB

1) Do you need to see our RA if we're online only?

No – we trust you to complete it!

First aid

1) Is it correct that if we're giving CPR to adults or children we only do chest compressions?

Yes – this is Government advice regardless of the severity of the situation – for both adults and children alike.

Cleanliness

1) Should we stop girls from bringing badge bags/cuddly toys etc. to GB?

Yes – as these could transmit the virus.

2) Are hand dryers banned?

Hand dryers aren't banned but paper towels are the preference.

3) Will GB provide/pay for PPE/hand sanitiser etc?

No – this will be the responsibility of local groups and their churches. In place of hand sanitiser you are allowed to use bowls of soapy water.

4) Do we need to take people's temperatures as they enter the building?

No – this is not necessary and not mandatory anywhere.

Food

1) Are pre-wrapped snacks, like KitKats, ok?

No snacks are allowed even if they're pre-wrapped. Something like a KitKat is fine if you're selling it as tuck as they'll be taking it away to eat.

2) Carton drinks are expensive, do we have to use these?

This is not compulsory – it's just a suggestion for groups who still wanted to provide a drink to their members.

Programme

1) You said GB is producing programme materials for September to December for us. How will this work?

We're going to write 2 programme booklets (x 2 for different age groups) to cover the period between September and December 2020. These will not fit within the traditional programme structure e.g.

n:vestigate/n:gage/n:counta/n:spire but will be part of the GB@home resources. This is because the resources will need to take a blended approach to make them suitable for either face-to-face delivery; Zoom delivery; or use at home by children and their parents. Two of the resources will be for a blended **n:vestigate** and **n:gage** age group – 4s to 11s. Two of the resources will be for a blended **n:counta** and **n:spire** age group – 10s to 18s. This is because we're assuming some of the fixed groups will be made up of children in different ages. The first one (to be used between September/October) is called *Being Together* and will be released on 31 August. The second one (to be used between October and December) is called *Christmas Countdown*. We'll be sharing more details about these with you ASAP. Plus we're compiling a list of socially distanced games you might like to play.

2) Will there be badges for these programmes?

Yes, there will be a generic GB@home pin badge and also a *Being Together* and a *Christmas Countdown* pin badge – all available from GB Trading. These will be

limited edition as they'll only be needed for this time frame. We'll be sharing more details about these with you ASAP.

Finances

1) Should we charge for online GB?

Yes – we think you should. Other activities that have gone online, such as ballet lessons, are still charging parents.

2) If we're not going to be able to meet for a while, how do we pay our 2021 fees?

The Trustee Board is looking into the 2021 fees so we'll share more about that soon. We think most groups might have to do some fundraising; and also will need to ensure they're charging even if they're just doing activities online.

Scenarios

I'm a key worker, a nurse at a local hospital, can I still be a leader at my GB group?

There is no government guidance stopping you from being a GB leader so it has to be a decision you make yourself and in conjunction with the other leaders in your group weighing up any risk factors that you know about that we might not.

I've been shielding, can I still be a leader at my GB group?

The government guidance around shielding is changing at the start of August so it's important you're in-line with that and that you talk to the other leaders in your group about when you feel comfortable returning to GB. We know that circumstances for all of our volunteer leaders are different and that this may impact on your timescales for resuming face-to-face activities.

The parents of some of our GB members aren't happy to send their girls back to face-to-face activities yet. What do we do?

Depending on the numbers involved, you might decide to run a programme that's both face-to-face and on Zoom, a programme that's just on Zoom, or delay the start of your group. We need to understand that not everyone will be comfortable in resuming face-to-face activities straight away and therefore reach out to them in a way that suits your context and meets the guidance.

I have 2 lots of sisters at my GB group – should siblings be in the same fixed group?

Ideally, yes this would be sensible. If the sisters aren't of a similar age maybe you'll need to talk to their parents about if they're ok with them being in different fixed groups.

