

Managing face-to-face activities during local lockdown or imposed restrictions.

Introduction

If you're in doubt about any of this guidance, please seek support from your volunteer line manager.

At any time, local or national governments may impose lockdown restrictions in a specific geographical area.

We've developed this guidance document using experiences of early lockdowns in Leicestershire and the North West of England in July 2020.

Principles

The County Commissioner (or nation equivalents) is the key role in this process as they will have direct contact with District Commissioners and other key local leaders, as well as being connected to national teams. We also know that restarting face-to-face activities is adding additional tasks on to District Teams already.

In large scale lock-downs, the Regional commissioner or National Chief Commissioners should be engaged in reaching the decision.

Indication of a lockdown may be sign-posted days in advance, or this may be sudden. Groups need to be ready and have a communication plan to alert young members and parents/carers.

Process

1. The relevant local or national government will make an announcement that a local lockdown is to be applied (this is likely to be based on postcodes, or within a defined boundary).
2. The appropriate County Commissioner(s) (or equivalents) will discuss the impact of the lockdown with their line manager, who will share details with the National Restart Project Team and decide together which Districts, if any, will need to change their Readiness Level.
3. The County Commissioner and/or their team will communicate with the affected groups, districts and any other relevant teams, e.g. a district Scout campsite. (Note: sometimes the scout boundaries will differ from the affected local authority boundaries and clear statements will be needed).
4. The readiness table on the national [website](#) will be updated by UKHQ to reflect the areas in lockdown, likely moving that county or part of county (or equivalent in other nations) back to RED. Where possible we will use scout geographical terms (e.g. district names) but it may be necessary to refer to local authority areas instead.
5. Groups and Units within that area will remain at that Readiness Level until informed by the District or County Teams that lockdown restrictions have eased sufficiently to change back.

6. If this local lockdown has only been in place for a short amount of time (up to 4 weeks), if risks have not changed substantially, the previously approved Risk Assessment may be used again. However if either are not the case (longer period or different risks), as new Risk Assessment will need to be completed and approved.
7. Where practical, we expect seven days' notice to be given of the likelihood of moving back up a level (eg Red to Amber) however we expect this to be much quicker when going down (eg Amber to Red).
8. County Commissioners will inform UKHQ (via their line manager) that necessary preparations have been made and the website will be updated.
9. Local leaders inform young people and parents of their next scheduled meeting date and proceed to run their planned programme. They will need to be ever mindful of their plans for a safely delivered programme.

It is possible that some parts of the country will enter lockdown more than once, and this will be an ongoing activity over a prolonged period of time.

Considerations

In deciding to close or restrict scout activity in a geographical area, County Commissioners need to consider whether any neighbouring areas also need to close. For example, if a large number of members live in one district and travel to Scouts in a neighbouring district, or those living in a lockdown district participate in a still open adjacent area.

Experience of these first few areas in the UK shows that local authorities are not implementing a complete lockdown, but they are imposing a number of strict restrictions. For example, these include households not being able to visit another household indoors or in a garden. Scout leaders should consider the perception of trying to run a section meeting that involves bringing together a number of young people, as well as accompanying adults at pick up and drop off times, whilst such restrictions are in place.