



THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

COVID-19 PANDEMIC

GUIDELINES FOR BRANCHES

This information is intended to help you, as a member of The Royal British Legion to decide what steps you should take to stop and control the spread of the COVID-19 virus and keep yourself and other members safe.

General

Members of The Royal British Legion must follow the guidelines and advice issued by the government or their local authority*.

Branch / County meetings

Although some of the lockdown restrictions are now lifted, the virus is still a threat and therefore we strongly recommend avoiding face-to-face meetings.

There is no essential need to arrange Branch meetings in person: meeting objectives can be achieved via teleconferences or videoconferences (online).

Despite some shops and businesses opening we are still asked to adhere to social distancing rules in many parts of the world. Lack of face-to-face meetings will therefore help to keep you and other members safe.

VJ Day, parades, events

We hope this will change by October but for now Remembrance parades and physical events must not take place. Branches and Counties are encouraged to arrange virtual events instead. Please bear in mind that members' safety is our priority and therefore we want to ensure that no one's life is put at risk especially when it comes to older members and veterans.

Yammer is a very good channel to get advice and tips from other branches on organising online events.

Fundraising / awareness raising activities

Activities such as setting up and manning stalls, stands, public information points, etc. currently cannot be undertaken safely. There are a lot of requirements around setting up such activities, and we cannot reasonably expect our members, who are volunteers, to have the knowledge and be sufficiently equipped to fulfil all these criteria.

As you would expect, other charities are facing the same challenges. Like them, the Legion's Fundraising directorate is trying to find ways that will support safe fundraising. They are working with the Fundraising Regulator and the Institute of Fundraising. As safe methods are agreed these will be communicated through the community fundraising line, and you will be given the appropriate advice via MSOs and on O365.

Branch Occupied Properties (not Clubs)

Branches occupying their own premises should not use them and cannot hire them to third parties. The Legion Estates Team are reviewing government statutory compliance responsibilities on a regular basis and may require the help of some branches to open up properties for inspection purposes only, although it is envisaged this will not be before 31 August 2020. Any further questions about branch occupied properties and their usage can be sent to:

CommercialAdmin@britishlegion.org.uk

Beneficiary support

Home and hospital visits are currently not allowed and Branch Community Support activities are limited to Telephone Buddies. As previously stated, this will assist in controlling the spread of the virus.

Funerals

Funeral attendance is still restricted by Government advice to specific groups and individuals, therefore Standard Bearers must not attend unless they fall into any of the allowed categories of people. Full guidance can be found [here](#). If the funeral takes place outside England, local guidelines must be followed.

Remember to follow the common advice

- Wear face coverings while travelling on public transport
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitiser; this is particularly important after taking public transport
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitiser that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available
- Always carry tissues with you to cover your cough or sneeze, then throw the tissue in a bin
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces in the home and work environment
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid close contact with people who are unwell.

*Official resources/guidance

UK Government (advice which mainly applies only to England):

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Frequently Asked Questions:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do>

Scottish Government: <https://www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Guidance including on distancing and shielding:

<https://www.gov.scot/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance/>

Welsh Government: <https://gov.wales/coronavirus>

Guidance on staying at home and away from others:

<https://gov.wales/staying-home-and-away-others-guidance>

Northern Ireland Executive: <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/campaigns/coronavirus-covid-19>

Guidance on staying at home and self-isolation:

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/coronavirus-covid-19-staying-home-and-self-isolation>

Isle of Man Government: <https://covid19.gov.im>

Government of Jersey: <https://www.gov.je/Health/Coronavirus/Pages/index.aspx>

States of Guernsey: <https://covid19.gov.gg>

Republic of Ireland: <https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/c36c85-covid-19-coronavirus/>