

Ringing in the Face of Covid19



All members must adhere to the regulations and guidelines of the Government of their Country including temporary local changes and restrictions. This includes guidelines on the number of people and households that may meet indoors or outdoors. A garage, shed or garden room counts as indoors.

Be respectful of other members' need to shield or preference to isolate. Be particularly diligent with social distancing if your team includes over 70s or clinically vulnerable people.

Do not attend if you or someone in your household has any symptoms that could be Covid or if you have been told to isolate because of a positive test or because you are a contact of someone who has developed Covid.

Public halls will have terms and conditions regarding use of these facilities during the Covid restrictions which will mainly relate to cleaning everything touched - such as but not limited to - door handles, entry keypads, light switches. If using toilet facilities all surfaces touched must be cleaned after use by each user.

A register must be taken and retained for 21 days of all people attending. The team leader or secretary should have all the contact details.

If no-one will touch equipment for 72 hours a superficial wipe down is enough. Otherwise it must be thoroughly cleaned with soap or alcohol. This includes tables and chairs belonging to the venue that other groups may use.

In the absence of a vaccine no activity is completely risk-free. These guidelines should help to minimize risk but HRGB can accept no liability.

ITEM OR ACTIVITY	RISK MITIGATION
Transport	Do not share cars*.
If Meeting Outside (safest)	Try not to go through people's homes. If you have to, avoid touching anything – doors should be left open. Do not go inside to help with the washing up.
If Meeting Inside	Open windows and non-fire doors for ventilation if possible and close on leaving. Avoid air conditioning that recirculates air. Agree responsibility with the venue for putting out and putting away chairs, tables etc. and disinfecting surfaces.
Arrival and Departure	Wash hands with soap (20 sec) or sanitise (over 60% alcohol).
Social Distancing	Ringers should always remain 2m apart,* including waiting to enter, setting up and clearing away, ringing, chatting during a break, queuing for the toilet etc. Try not to face each other. Side by side, perhaps in an arc, is safer.
Masks or Face Coverings	Wear these if possible. They may be legally required in some circumstances.
Tables	One ringer per table if possible*. Get out own table or, if covering with foam, wipe any edges that might be touched by the ringer. Or use music stands (one ringer per stand).* Do not share music, risers etc.*
Foams	Each ringer should get out and put away their own foam.* A temporary cover such as plastic or an old bedsheet can give additional protection – launder afterwards.
Chairs	If not organised by the venue, each ringer should get out and put away their own chair, wiping it down before putting it away.*
Music	Each ringer should be responsible for their own music if at all possible. New music can be emailed if copyright allows. Music to be handled by others can be quarantined for 72 hours, or binders and music in plastic sheets can be wiped.
Gloves (clean)	Must be worn, then taken home in a plastic bag and washed (60°C or higher).
Bells, Chimes and Mallets	Each ringer should get out and put away their own bells. Try not to touch the case
Bells, Chimes and Mallets	Do not share bells or equipment – better to miss out a note than risk your health!
Techniques (if bells will be used by others within 72 hrs)	Do not touch yarn mallet heads or clappers as these are difficult to disinfect. Avoid plucking. If you thumb damp wipe the bell afterwards and dry with a soft cloth.
During the Session	Do not sing, shout or raise your voice. Be attentive so the leader does not have to.
Any Payments Received	Try not to handle cash. Electronic payments (online, PayPal etc.) preferred.
Coffee Break	Not advised. If you do have one each person should bring their own drink and "cup" (taking cups etc. home in a plastic bag to wash). Do not share biscuits etc.
Afterwards	Wipe down anything that may be handled by anyone else within 72 hours. This includes bell handles, mallet handles, risers, music binders, plastic sheets etc.
Performance	Indoor performances to a live audience are not yet allowed but you can record a performance online and can perform outdoors to a limited audience in England. No audience participation on bells.

* People in the same household or support bubble/extended household are counted as one unit.