

St Catherines Hill Community Hall – Risk Assessment review – February 2022

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Introduction

The Hall was closed from March 2020 until September 2021.

The Hall was in the situation where legal compulsion has been replaced by “strong encouragement” and “personal responsibility”. That changed in December 2021 when the mandatory wearing of face masks was re-introduced in the light of the spread of the Omicron variant. Since then vaccine coverage in the UK has dramatically improved and self isolation rules modified. For example contacts of those with the virus do not have to self isolate if they are fully vaccinated. On January 27th, 2022 the requirement to wear face masks was lifted and became “encouraged” in indoor areas. A review of the requirements was carried out following this, but with the announcement on 21st February that remaining restrictions and rules were being lifted, that was not issued.

In summary the current situation is as follows:

- Those with symptoms of COVID or who test positive to not legally have to self isolate
- There is no longer a requirement to list attendees at any event

However advice from the Government is that you still endeavour to self-isolate, wear a mask when appropriate, ventilate areas and test regularly. See - [Latest Government Guidance](#)

Issues

Some users and potential hirers have highlighted the following concerns

- Restriction on Numbers
- No consumption of alcoholic beverages for events over 40 in number

Anticipated relaxation of the rules where safe behaviours are encouraged, but not legally enforceable is the situation the management Committee is faced with

Hall Activities

Organisationally there are two types of activity that take place in the Hall. These are:-

1. Activities organised by the Management Committee (Trustees of the charity). These used to include musical events and, latterly, the Saturday night quizzes. The Thursday Coffee Morning is the only one currently held, and is run by volunteers on our behalf.
2. Activities organised by Hirers.

The Hall has endeavoured to provide a safe facility by putting in place the following measures:-

- Regular cleaning by contractor, assisted by the caretaker and Hall users (eg cleaning of tables)

- Provision of cleaning materials
- Provision of hand sanitiser
- Posting of appropriate notices
- Restriction on numbers and consumption of alcoholic beverages
- Display of QR code to aid track and trace

In respect of numbers the Hall is proposing to lift the number restriction but emphasise that it is up to the Hirers to decide what is an acceptable number, taking into account the type and nature of the event.

It is also proposed that the ban on alcohol be lifted, but, again, Hirers should make their own assessment. The Hall does not have a licence for the selling of drinks and Hirers must remember they are liable for the costs of any damage caused by an event.

It is up to each group using the Hall to decide what measures they wish to take in respect of face coverings.

Self isolation rules have been lifted, but, as the guidance still recommends isolation the Management Committee still considers it very important that those with symptoms or a positive test should not enter the Hall

The table listing the precautions/recommendations has been updated and is shown below. **It is important that Hirers make their own assessment.** The Hall does not require sight of any assessments made by the Hirers.

Table1 – St Catherine’s Community Hall – Precautions and Recommendations February 2022

Precaution	Hall	Hirer
Social Distancing	In view of current relaxation of rules the limit on numbers no longer applies.	It is recommended that Hirers make their own judgement on numbers in each location. It is also up to the group to decide policy on face coverings.
Ventilation	Caretaker or other appropriate person to open skylights/windows as appropriate in main hall every morning, weather allowing. Aperture dependant on outside temperature and weather. Britannia Room windows to be opened, aperture dependant on outside temperature and weather	Ventilation – maintain ventilation as much as reasonably practicable. Even small openings are better than nothing. Encourage warm clothing during cold weather. Upstairs windows should be closed after each event in the event of inclement weather.

Table1 – St Catherine’s Community Hall – Precautions and Recommendations February 2022

Precaution	Hall	Hirer
Cleaning	<p>The Hall will undergo a thorough clean once a week by a professional firm of good reputation according to a schedule provided by the Hall</p> <p>The caretaker or other appropriate person will clean parts of the Hall likely to have been contacted by the previous day’s users, except when the Hall has been previously cleaned by the contract cleaners. We will continue to supply cleaning materials</p>	<p>Hirers are encouraged to clean surfaces contacted during an event including tables. Items can only be stored in the Hall with the permission of the Trustees. Beverages and foodstuffs are not to be left in the kitchen.</p>
Personal Hygiene	<p>Sanitising solution for hands will still be provided in various locations.</p>	<p>Hirers are expected to encourage hirers to wash or sanitise hand on entering the Hall. This will reduce spread of any possible contamination. Hirers are also encouraged to bring their own sanitiser solutions.</p>
Track and Trace	<p>QR code will no longer be displayed as Track and Trace has stopped.</p>	<p>Hirers may wish to continue keeping records, but is no longer a legal requirement</p>
Notice and Entry Rules	<p>There will be a notice in the Hall saying that persons should not enter if they have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tested positive for Covid 19 • Display symptoms of Covid 19 – persistent cough, fever, lack of taste or smell, difficulty breathing. 	<p>Hirers should draw their member’s attention to the notice</p>