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GUIDANCE

COVID-19 guidance for higher education in Wales: update September 2020

Guidance on indoor gatherings, outdoor gatherings, extended households and face coverings.

First published:
28 September 2020

Last updated:
28 September 2020

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Indoor gatherings

Welsh law imposes restrictions on people gathering indoors with others without a reasonable excuse (some examples of which are listed in the Regulations). This means people should not generally enter each other's homes outside their extended household.

Gatherings, meetings or parties indoors even within your extended household must be limited to 6 people (not including any children aged under 11). This applies in places like pubs and restaurants as well as in people's homes.

Students should be made aware that a party indoors with people from different households is not allowed.

Outdoor gatherings

Gatherings of up to 30 people are permitted outdoors.

When meeting outdoors, students and staff should be advised to maintain social distancing whenever possible from people outside their household or extended household.

We are still advising people to avoid places where many people tend to come together in large numbers with no controlling presence.

Organised outdoor activities, involving up to 30 people, including team sports and classes are also allowed to take place. If this is being organised in a university setting, the person responsible has a duty to carry out an appropriate risk assessment in advance and take all reasonable measures to minimise risk of exposure to coronavirus. Those organising such events will generally hold a duty of care to those attending the gathering, which means they should ensure the event is as safe as possible.

Students and staff should be advised to avoid unorganised gatherings, busy places and large queues.

Extended households

Please note extended households are not allowed in areas under local health protection measures.

Extended households could be very attractive to latter year students who tend to have formed into more traditional households and will have more clearly defined social groups. However these will present difficult choices, particularly where partners are concerned, as all individuals in a household need to agree on the same extended household. However, this is the same for the entire population at this time. Excluding all students from these arrangements would be disproportionate.

However, extended households may be unworkable for first year / new students and those already living in larger households. In these circumstances institutions may wish to advise these students not to form extended households.

In addition, support may be needed to help vulnerable students and students in higher risk categories in deciding on forming households and extended households. They may also require support in communicating with other students where additional consideration for the need to keep each other safe should be thought through.

Face coverings

As of 14 September face coverings are required in all indoor public places, including for students and staff working in those indoor public areas, unless one has a reasonable excuse (see below). This includes any public areas within buildings that are otherwise closed to the public – for example a reception area of an office building.

Please see general guidance on [face coverings](#).

We strongly recommend that universities mandate the use of face coverings in all indoor public spaces, including in student accommodation and any areas where social distancing cannot be maintained, unless there are strong reasons not to.

We also advise that universities decide whether to require face coverings in teaching and learning environments based on their assessment of the risk and in context of local circumstances and the need to access education.

First published

28 September 2020

Last updated

28 September 2020

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