



15 October 2020

As you will be aware, additional, temporary measures were introduced by the Scottish Government on Friday 9 October to reduce the spread of COVID-19 across the central belt. We would like to take this opportunity to further clarify what this means for Remembrance events. It is important to emphasise that such events can proceed as long as they adhere to the relevant guidance for outdoor events or places of worship in their area.

Outdoor Events

The temporary measures introduced on Friday 9 October that outdoor events cannot be staged within the central belt (Ayrshire & Arran; Forth Valley; Greater Glasgow & Clyde; Lanarkshire; and Lothian) until at least Monday 26 October. It is the Scottish Government's firm intent that these restrictions will finish on 26 October. However, given the unpredictable status of the virus we are not able to guarantee that they will not be extended. Those organising events should be aware of this and that they may have to consider alternative ways to hold their events, such as holding a virtual event if possible.

Outwith those five regions, local Remembrance events can proceed as long as they comply with Scottish Government guidance for either an outdoor seated live event or an outdoor open spaces live.

If planning an outdoor gathering involving more than 6 people from 2 different households, it must be organised as in line with the guidance on outdoor events and will require the approval of the relevant local authority. As part of this, organisers will be required to limit the number of people attending, maintain social distancing at all times and complete out a risk assessment to limit the risk of transmission of the virus.

Further details on how these types of event are defined and matters that should be considered when staging an event are contained in the [Scottish Government's events sector guidance](#) which is regularly updated. Depending on the nature of what is planned, you may also wish to consult the [Scottish Government's performing arts and venues guidance](#).

Places of Worship

The temporary measures introduced on Friday 9 October did not include any changes to the guidance on attendance at Places of Worship, which is therefore the same across all of Scotland. For the purposes of Coronavirus guidance, places of worship are defined as:

“All indoor and confined or enclosed outdoor spaces (for example, enclosed courtyards) used for religious ceremonies, collective prayer and worship or similar gatherings by faith organisations. It includes but is not limited to:

- churches
- mosques
- gurdwaras
- synagogues
- temples
- any other public space where the primary purpose is faith-based practices, such as prayer rooms within public buildings”

These locations remain permitted to open for services or similar events, including Remembrance commemorations, for up to a limit of 50 people, so long as they can confidently adhere to guidance on preventative measures such as social distancing. Places of worship may also hold outdoor services people within their own grounds with suitable mitigations in place.

The full guidance for places of worship can be found via the following link:
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-phase-3-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship/>

We appreciate the time and effort it takes to organise events such as Remembrance, and will endeavour to keep you up to date with any changes in guidance that may occur between now and November.