REOPENING NI GUIDELINES WEBINAR

Questions and Responses

1. **Are the numbers on a coach tour for international visitors going to be limited on a coach and if so by what percentage?**
   
   
   At present, members of different households can't meet indoors with the exception of those who are living alone who can form a 'bubble' with another household. From Tuesday (30th June), up to six people can meet indoors. If the restrictions ease further, the principles of social distancing will apply.

2. **Are there any official safety guidelines for multi-day coach tours re Covid-19 in Northern Ireland in the next couple of months?**
   

3. **As a coffee shop, people come in, line up and order at the deli, pay and then sit down. Will we be allowed to do this this as normal?**
   
Each business must complete a risk assessment and determine how they must adjust their standard operating procedures to work as safely as possible.

4. **Are the executive going to match the UK Government for allowing customers to be buying alcohol only indoors? Also, do restaurants serving food have to close their premises once food service stops operating?**

   Information about which businesses can open and when can be found here: 
   [https://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/content/coronavirus-re-opening-plan-hotels-and-other-tourist-accommodation](https://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/content/coronavirus-re-opening-plan-hotels-and-other-tourist-accommodation).

   At present, alcohol can be served indoors with a substantial meal, or in outdoor spaces such as beer gardens, where their licence permits them to do so. It is for the NI Executive to determine when restrictions will be lifted.

5. **In hostels with shared kitchens and social spaces what groups we can accept bookings from?**

   At present, members of different households can't meet indoors, with the exception of those who are living alone who can form a 'bubble' with another household.

   From Tuesday (30th June), up to six people can meet indoors. If the restrictions ease further, the principles of social distancing will apply. For this to change, there must be a change in the legislation and we anticipate further changes in the weeks ahead to facilitate the reopening of tourism and hospitality businesses: [https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/health/your-guide-to-covid-regs.pdf](https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/health/your-guide-to-covid-regs.pdf)
6. What would be best to use for menus? A menu application, single use menus or log into website to view menu? 

Any of these options are acceptable. Single use menus can be used, or menus should be disinfected after use (if possible).

7. In regards to cleaning products that we use what is acceptable? Are supermarket products okay to use?


They advise that "cleaning an area with normal household disinfectant after someone with suspected coronavirus (COVID-19) has left will reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people." More specific information can be found on the above web page.


8. New guidelines for bed and Breakfast Re-opening?


Each business must take the key principles and determine how they apply to their own individual circumstances.
While not specific to B&Bs, the Association of Scottish Self Caterers provides very good information on cleaning protocols for tourist accommodation: https://www.assc.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Cleaning-Protocols-for-Self-Catering-Properties-and-Short-Term-Lets-v3.pdf.

We recommend that businesses read the guidelines in full, then contact us with any specific questions.

9. **Is there any specific information relating to tour guides?**

The guidance on Working Safely During COVID-19 in the Visitor Economy gives principles that are applicable to all tourism and hospitality businesses.

The document also links to the Institute of Tourist Guiding for further advice: https://www.itg.org.uk/news-and-events/institute-news/covid-19-guidance-for-guides/

Please note, these are not official Government guidelines but drawn from a membership organisation.

A webinar exploring specific NI guidelines for tour guiding is taking place on Thursday 2nd July. For more details and to register visit: https://covid19.tourismni.com/support-centre/webinars/sectoral-guidelines--tour-guiding/

10. **What is the position regarding a guest developing symptoms and wanting to quarantine for 14 days. Can they be removed from the property? This is very important for self-catering accommodation with follow on bookings.**

Information is provided within the guidance. The advice has changed several times, so the most up-to-date information will be provided here: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-advice-for-accommodation-providers
As of 25 June, the advice is that, “if a guest is displaying signs of the COVID-19 virus while staying in overnight accommodation, they should inform the accommodation provider, immediately self-isolate where they are to minimise any risk of transmission, and request a test. If they are confirmed to have COVID-19, they should return home if they reasonably can. They should use private transport but only drive themselves if they can do so safely. If a guest cannot reasonably return home (for example because they are not well enough to travel or do not have the means to arrange transport), their circumstances should be discussed with an appropriate health care professional and, if necessary, the local authority.

11. Will there be a time limit imposed on customers in restaurants?
Restaurants will be allowed to reopen from 3rd July. Permission to open will be on a table service basis, i.e. customers will not be permitted to order either food or drink from the bar area of an establishment. At present, we are unaware of any time limits to be imposed, however this could change.

To view the Reopening NI webinar again please [click here](https://covid19.tourismni.com/support-centre/webinars)