

SUMMARY OF RESTRICTIONS FOR TOURISM & HOSPITALITY VENUES

12th April 2021

This document summarises the current restrictions as they apply to tourism and hospitality businesses as of 12th April 2021. The next review is due to take place by 15th April 2021 and Tourism NI will update this document thereafter.

The most up-to-date information on *The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (No2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020* can be found [here](#), and guidance on the restrictions can be found on the [NI Direct website](#). Please note that businesses must stay up to date with regulations and how they impact their individual business.

This document is a summary of the restrictions. It should be read in conjunction with the '[Working Safely during COVID-19 in Tourism and Hospitality Businesses](#)' guidance document produced by Tourism NI and the Department for the Economy at 18th December 2020.

Please note that failure to comply with legal requirements could result in enforcement action including premises improvement notices, fixed penalty notices and/or prosecution.

SUMMARY OF RESTRICTIONS

1) Accommodation

- All tourist accommodation, including hotels, guesthouses, bed and breakfasts, guest accommodation, hostels, self-catering accommodation, bunk houses, campus accommodation and caravan sites will only be able to operate on a restricted basis.
- Accommodation can be provided for those already resident; for work-related purposes; for vulnerable people; for those in emergency situations; and for people unable to return to their main address.

2) Hospitality

- Hospitality venues such as cafes, restaurants, pubs, bars and social clubs must remain closed, with the exception of providing food and drink for take-away, drive-through or delivery.
- Businesses providing take-away services must close at 23:00 and off-sales must stop at 20:00. Outdoor areas are not permitted to be used.
- The provision of food and drink in motorway services, airports and harbour terminals is allowed.

3) Entertainment, Leisure Activities and Cultural Attractions

- Leisure and entertainment venues such as theatres, concert halls, cinemas, amusement arcades, bingo halls, bowling alleys, skating rinks, inflatable parks, go-karting venues, soft play centres, fairgrounds and funfairs, indoor museums, galleries, visitor and other cultural attractions are not permitted to open.
- Outdoor parks, play areas, outdoor areas of properties operated by the National Trust and the outdoor areas of stately homes, historic homes and castles are permitted to remain open.
- Other outdoor visitor attractions are not permitted to open, along with drive-in events. A full list of businesses is defined in the [Health Protection Regulations](#).
- Theatres and concert halls are permitted to open for rehearsals or a live recording without an audience.
- Community halls are allowed to remain open but must adhere to current guidelines.
- Libraries are allowed to provide 'call and collect' services, and access to the internet.

4) Retail

- Only essential retail is permitted to remain open.
- Retail premises can only remain open if the business is wholly or mainly an essential retail business. Where an essential retail business has another, separate business embedded within it that is required to close, the embedded business must close. [Read more about essential retail businesses here](#).
- Contactless click/ phone and collect is permitted for all non-essential retail businesses. [Read more on providing contactless click-and-collect services](#).
- Outdoor retail can open for some businesses such as garden centres, plant nurseries, car retailers and retailers of caravans or motorhomes. [See guide to providing outdoor retail services](#).
- Off-licences and supermarkets are not permitted to sell alcohol after 20:00.
- An essential retail business may be operated from a market stall and may continue to trade as such.

5) Close contact services

Close contact services, such as hairdressers, beauticians, make-up and nails, massage, well-being and holistic treatments, are not permitted to operate. A full list of businesses and exemptions are defined in the [Health Protection Regulations](#).

This also applies to those who provide mobile close contact services from their homes, in other people's homes, and those in retail environments.

Exemptions apply for:

- Film and TV production
- Services ancillary to medical, health and social care services
- Sports massage and therapeutic services for elite athletes

6) Sports

- Up to 10 people (including children of all ages) from a maximum of two households can take part in outdoor sports activities.
- Up to 15 people (including coaches) can take part in structured outdoor sports training, through clubs or individuals affiliated to recognised sports governing bodies or representative organisations for sport and physical activity.
- Outdoor sports facilities can re-open but only to permit their use for those allowed in the regulations. Club houses and indoor sports facilities (changing rooms, showers, kitchens, meeting rooms), apart from essential toilet facilities must stay closed.
- The return to sport protocols put in place by sports governing bodies should be strictly adhered to including hygiene measures, social distancing and other mitigations.
- Any behaviour which may encourage the risk of transmission around sports activities, such as car sharing, the congregation of people on the side-lines and sporting celebrations, should be avoided.
- Sports governing bodies have a responsibility to ensure full compliance with the protocols and are expected to put arrangements in place to deal with non-compliant clubs, participants and coaches.
- Indoor sport is not permitted, other than at elite level.

- Elite training and competition can continue, both indoors and outdoors.
- Elite sporting events must be held behind closed doors without spectators.
- The definition of an elite athlete is set out in the [Health Protection Regulations](#).
- Horse racing and other recognised equine sports, can take place behind closed doors, in line with the elite sport regulations and animal welfare considerations.
- All indoor sports facilities such as leisure centres, gyms, health clubs, swimming pools, fitness and dance studios must remain closed.
- Physical education delivered for schools, pre-schools and other education providers is permitted to continue.