

**\* COVID-19 Update (Effective from 26<sup>th</sup> December 2021 for 3 weeks) \***

On Tuesday 21 December, the First Minister provided an update to the Scottish Parliament on COVID-19 and related restrictions. This reiterated the increasing challenge posed by the Omicron variant, the priority being placed on supporting the vaccine and booster programme, and the need for businesses to strengthen compliance with protection measures.

As part of the update the First Minister also confirmed enhanced measures will be put in place for up to three weeks from 26<sup>th</sup> December 2021 for 'large scale events' and 'indoor contact sport for adults' and 27<sup>th</sup> December all other areas including hospitality & leisure centres. These measures include:

**1. Indoor Contact Sport (adults)**

- Professional and/or elite indoor contact sport with approved plans and protocols in place may continue with training and competition. For further information regarding professional/elite sport please refer to the relevant section in [Return to Competitions and Events](#) .
- All other indoor (adult) contact sport and physical activity should not take place during this period.

**2. Large Scale Events**

- Large scale spectator events can go ahead if 1m physical distancing measures are put in place and attendances limited to:
  - **Indoors** - 100 standing, 200 seated
  - **Outdoors** - 500 standing, and 500 seated

It has been confirmed by Scottish Government that mass participation events can continue to take place as follows, although the overriding message is that non-essential activity should be avoided wherever possible:

- **Outdoor Sporting Events**

No restriction on participating numbers but guidance relating to spectating is still applicable and should be followed i.e., total 500 standing or sitting and following relevant Events guidance. We would also ask partners to ensure all appropriate safety protocols are applied

- **Indoor Sporting Events**

- No specific restriction on participating numbers is applicable however 1m physical distancing is required at all times, including before, during and after events. Therefore, numbers should be limited to ensure this is the case.
- As previously advised no indoor adult contact sport, other than professional/elite sport, is permitted during the 3-week period from 26<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

Further guidance relating to event organisation is available at [Coronavirus advice for events | VisitScotland.org](#)

**3. Indoor Hospitality & Leisure Venues (including Gyms and Leisure Centres)**

- 1m physical distancing should be implemented in gym and leisure centre settings. For classes limit numbers to ensure physical distancing can be maintained throughout the activity and at control entry/exit points.
- All indoor hospitality venues should reintroduce physical distancing (1m) between groups (maximum 3 households per group) as well as table service in settings where alcohol is served. Please refer to [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): tourism and hospitality sector - gov.scot](#) for further information.

**4. Stay Home, Stay Safe**

- For the three-week period, Scottish Government advises that people stay at home as much as possible, keep contacts to a minimum; and keep New Year gatherings as small as your family circumstances allow. Further Scottish Government guidance is available at [Coronavirus in Scotland - gov.scot](#).

**5. Business Support**

- The First Minister also confirmed that an additional £275m will be provided in business support on top of the £100m announced last week. Further information will be published on the Scottish Government website in the coming weeks.