



# Opening youth sector activities during COVID-19

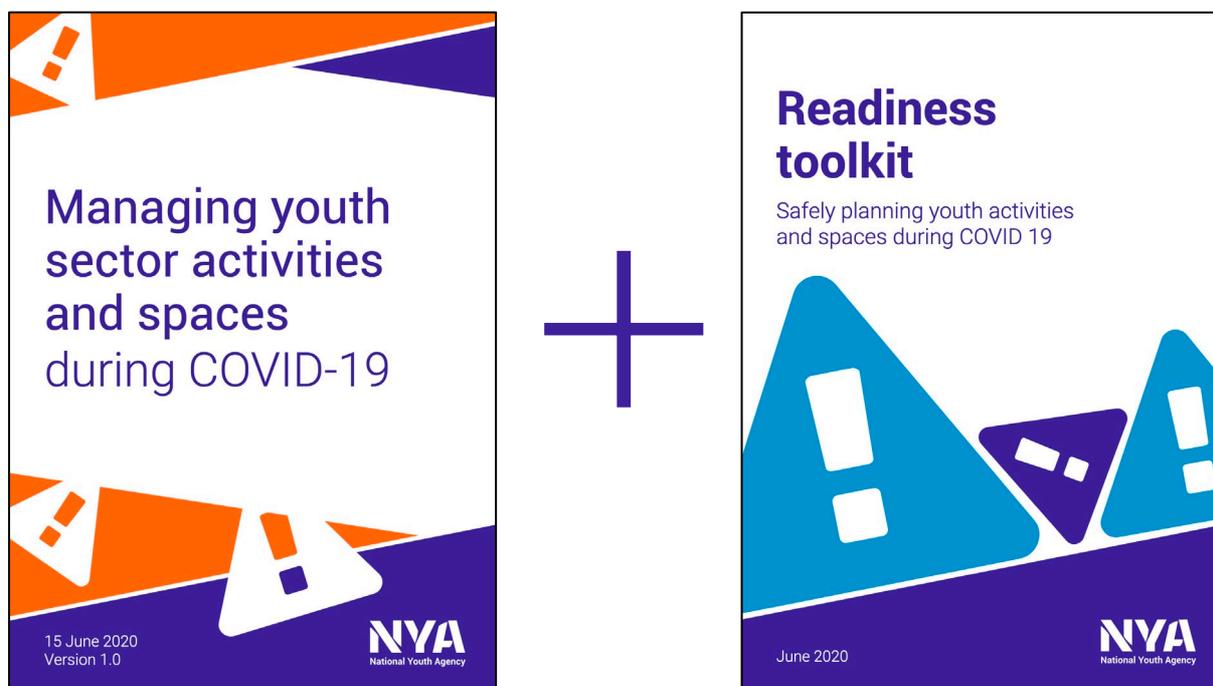
## Amber aware



## 1.0 Introduction

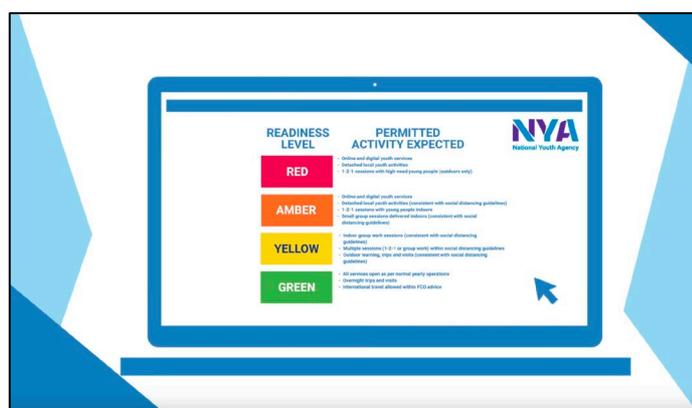
From the 6<sup>th</sup> of July 2020, the readiness level for most of England changed to **AMBER**. Localised lockdown restrictions are still in place in some areas. Please check the National Youth Agency (NYA) website to find out if your area is subject to lockdown restrictions.

This document must be viewed in conjunction with the documents below. Please ensure they are read in full:



NB: The readiness level, which applies only to England, may go up or down based on government regulations (the law), local lockdowns or following consultation with the sector.

We recommend that all staff, volunteers and young people **set aside 6 minutes** to view the *NYA COVID-19 Guidelines* video. (click below)



## 2.0 Amber readiness level

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The following activities are permitted at the **amber** readiness level:

- Online and digital youth services
- Detached local youth activities, including pre-planned outdoor activities
- 1-2-1 indoor sessions with young people
- Indoor group sessions

NB: Overnight trips and visits are not permitted. (See Section 9.0.)

## 3.0 Group sizes

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From the 4<sup>th</sup> of July 2020, following completion of an action plan and risk assessment (consistent with the NYA guidance on managing youth sector activities and spaces during COVID-19), individuals may gather indoors or outdoors, provided there are no more than 15 people per group. Where possible, the groups should be smaller.

It may be possible for multiple groups to convene in your venue, if the spaces meet the NYA's 'COVID-19 secure' requirements and if the correct precautions are taken (See Section 4.0.). To ensure that participants remain safe, strict adherence to the following measures is required:

- Organisers should divide young people into bubbles, with a maximum of 15 people per bubble.
- The above-mentioned headcount includes workers/leaders.
- Children/young people should be placed in age appropriate bubbles.
- Members of each bubble should adhere to the current social distancing requirements.
- Upon arrival/departure, participants should wash their hands or use hand sanitiser.
- Should any member of a bubble become unwell, all members of the bubble should contact NHS Test and Trace. All members of the bubble (including leaders/visitors) should also be suspended from attendance and requested to self-isolate for 14 days.
- Social distancing should be maintained during all activities.
- Organisers should be aware of attendees who are clinically vulnerable or clinically extremely vulnerable and should prepare their risk assessment accordingly.

**NB: We advise organisers to re-open slowly. This means they should run pilot sessions with fewer than 15 attendees, to ensure it is possible to manage social distancing and hygiene measures in accordance with NYA guidelines.**

## 4.0 COVID-19 secure venue group size

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The NYA's guidance (Managing youth sector activities and spaces during COVID-19) meets the government requirement for COVID Secure. If youth sector providers comply with NYA guidance your venue is considered COVID Secure. This would permit multiple bubbles (of 15 people each) in venues that are large enough **and** have put in place all the measures outlined in our guidance.

This must only be considered if your venue is large enough to have multiple distinct spaces for each bubble to meet. **How do bubbles need to work?**

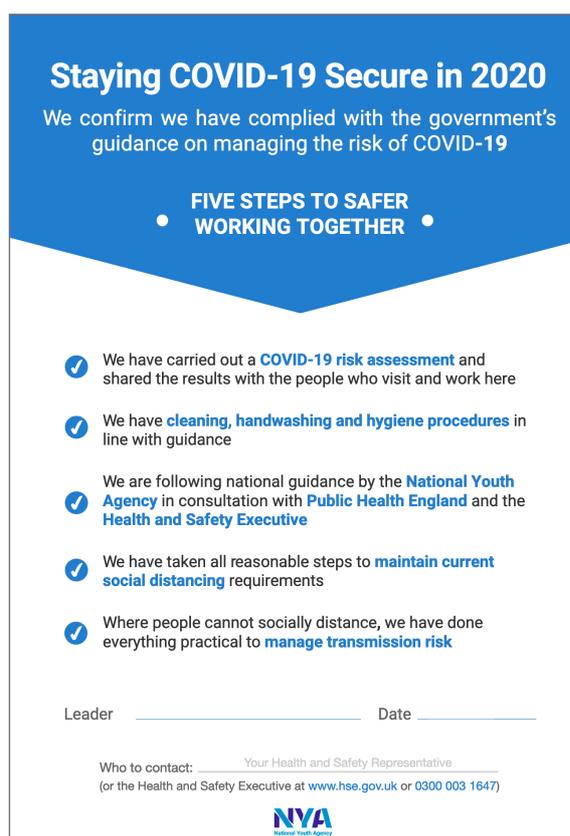
- Organisers should divide young people into fixed bubbles, with a maximum of 15 people per bubble per session.
- The above-mentioned headcount includes workers/leaders.
- Bubbles should not join with other bubbles. Individuals should remain in the bubble they are allocated for that day.
- As the risk of transmission is lower outdoors, activities should take place outdoors as often as possible and when it is safe to do so.
- Different bubbles should ideally enter and exit through different doors – when sessions begin, during breaks and when leaving the site. If not possible then stagger arrival and departure times where possible.
- Organisers should encourage young people to arrive only with members of their bubble and to avoid mingling before and after sessions. We understand that organisers have limited control in this regard, but we encourage you to brief young people and to educate them on social distancing requirements.
- Shared spaces such as sports halls, kitchens, etc. must be deep cleaned thoroughly between use if different bubbles are to use them on the same day (sequentially). Spaces should not be used at the same time by more than one bubble.
- It is essential that the 'NYA COVID secure' [guidance](#) is followed. Leaders/organisers should ensure that the highest standards of compliance are maintained during each session and from one week to the next. Should standards drop, you are required to close your sessions until the necessary adjustments are made.
- Enhanced regular cleaning of commonly used surfaces, such as equipment and door handles, should be ensured.
- It is not necessary for each bubble to use separate toilets; however, efforts should be made to limit the numbers of users at a given time. Use of different toilets for each bubble is ideal. Please consider safeguarding concerns when planning and preparing your risk assessments.
- Swimming pools, dance studios, indoor gyms/fitness spaces and soft play spaces must remain closed as they fall outside of the current regulations.

**NB: If you are unable to adhere to the above requirements, you should not allow more than one bubble to attend at the same time.**

## 5.0 COVID-19 secure poster

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When you are comfortable that you have met the COVID Secure compliance requirements, the following *Staying COVID-19 Secure in 2020* poster must be displayed around your site (click poster to print):



**Staying COVID-19 Secure in 2020**  
We confirm we have complied with the government's guidance on managing the risk of COVID-19

**FIVE STEPS TO SAFER WORKING TOGETHER**

- ✓ We have carried out a **COVID-19 risk assessment** and shared the results with the people who visit and work here
- ✓ We have **cleaning, handwashing and hygiene procedures** in line with guidance
- ✓ We are following national guidance by the **National Youth Agency** in consultation with **Public Health England** and the **Health and Safety Executive**
- ✓ We have taken all reasonable steps to **maintain current social distancing** requirements
- ✓ Where people cannot socially distance, we have done everything practical to **manage transmission risk**

Leader \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

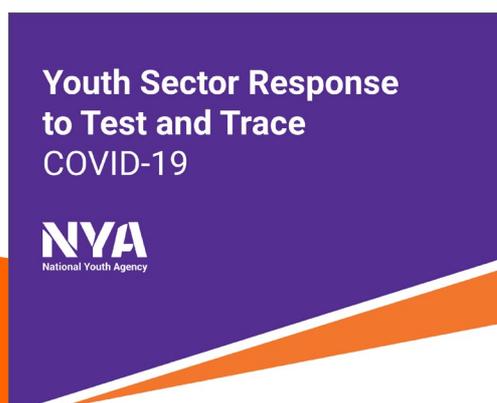
Who to contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Your Health and Safety Representative  
(or the Health and Safety Executive at [www.hse.gov.uk](http://www.hse.gov.uk) or 0300 003 1647)

**NYA**  
National Youth Agency

## 6.0 NHS Test and Trace

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The NYA has published a fact sheet on the NHS Test and Trace service. We recommend that all youth sector providers support the Test and Trace service while continuing with their usual registration and visitor management.



## 7.0 National associations

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If your group is affiliated with a national association (uniformed, etc.), you should check what additional guidance or requirements they have put in place to safeguard young people. These requirements should be implemented before commencing delivery.

## 8.0 Outdoor learning

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Many groups are keen to resume outdoor trips and residentials. After consulting with sector organisations and reviewing the regulations, overnight stays will not be permitted during this readiness level.

The current regulations for camping permit groups from two households to stay together (in separate tents). Mixed groups of youth sector participants are therefore excluded from the regulations. (The regulations that apply to families do not apply to youth sector organisations.) This means that groups may not stay under canvas as part of a structured youth sector activity.

We recommend that you keep an eye on the NYA website. Be sure to sign up to the NYA Network (via our website), to stay informed of any changes.

NB: It is the aim of the NYA to allow as much youth sector activity as possible, provided that safety is the main priority. We will continue to work with the government to clarify what youth sector activities fall within the regulations.

## 9.0 Further support

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The NYA has teamed up with UK Youth and the Federation for Detached Youth Work to provide further support, tools, checklists and model risk assessments:

<https://youthworksupport.co.uk>

UK Government coronavirus website:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

*The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) Regulations 2020:*

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2020/684/made>

Public Health England, *Disparities in the Risk and Outcomes of COVID-19:*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/891116/disparities\\_review.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/891116/disparities_review.pdf)

*Staying Alert and Safe (Social Distancing) guidance:*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing>

*Guidance on Shielding and Protecting People Who are Clinically Extremely Vulnerable from COVID-19:*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19>

*Staying at Home and Away from Others (Social Distancing):*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/full-guidance-on-staying-at-home-and-away-from-others/full-guidance-on-staying-at-home-and-away-from-others>

*Coronavirus (COVID-19): Safer Travel Guidance for Passengers:*

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers>

Health and Safety Executive (HSE) general COVID-19 website:

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/news/coronavirus.htm>

HSE, *Working Safely During the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Outbreak:*

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/news/working-safely-during-coronavirus-outbreak.htm>

## 11.0 Legal statement

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The National Youth Agency (NYA) does not provide this document to the sector in anything less than 'guidance'. NYA takes no responsibility for how users of this document interpret or apply the guidance. Users of this guide must ensure that they operate within the law, that they adhere to social distancing guidelines, and that they meet their specific duties and responsibilities to stakeholders. It is the responsibility of each organisational unit to make its own decisions on how to apply the advice included herein. NYA cannot be held accountable for local decisions based on this guidance. Organisations must ensure they have suitable action plans and risk assessments, and that they are satisfied that they have considered all reasonable actions to protect the welfare, health and safety of staff, volunteers, employees and service users.

This guidance does not supersede any legal obligations relating to health and safety, employment or equalities, and it is important that as an organisation, charity, local authority or an employer, you continue to comply with your existing obligations, including those relating to individuals with protected characteristics. This document contains non-statutory guidance, which should be considered when complying with these obligations.

When considering how to apply this guidance, consider agency workers, contractors and other people, as well as your employees and service users/young people. To assist you in deciding which actions to take, an appropriate COVID-19 risk assessment should be carried out, as is the case for other health and safety hazards. This risk assessment must be done in consultation with unions or workers.



Users should ensure they are referring to the most up-to-date version of the document, which can be found on the NYA website: [www.nya.org.uk](http://www.nya.org.uk).



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