

# Members. We are here to support you.



*Yesterday's announcement on pub re-opening also contained broader guidelines for the hotel industry. These will be formally published next week but are summarised here.*

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Pubs that only serve alcohol will be allowed to open on 23rd September 2020. The indicative date of 21st September has been extended by two days to enable new regulations for the hospitality sector to be put in place to support their safe operation.

This date has been agreed by the Executive and will be reviewed on an ongoing basis. Opening of the hotel sector is directly related to the COVID19 pandemic and if there are changes to the health situation, aspects of the industry may be curtailed.

Following extensive engagement with the hospitality sector, the Executive has agreed that mandatory requirements will include the following, which we have adapted for hotels. Please note that the regulations are being written and will be published next week. We will send an updated link to members on this.

- The venue will be required, as part of its risk assessment process, to identify the number of people who can safely be accommodated in line with social distancing requirements, and must clearly display this figure in the premises. Hotels should do this for each space indicating the number of people that it can hold by layout. This information, along with your risk assessment, must be available for enforcing officials either from the PSNI, local council or other agencies.
- Hand sanitisation stations must be in place.
- The venue will be required to collect customer details (just name and phone) to assist with the contact tracing programme. For casual customers you should have this for each person. For pre-bookings this should be the lead guest and for weddings/ events/meetings, the responsible person should have all these details for each person or family. GDPR applies to these details and they should be held securely and destroyed after 21 days. You have the right to refuse entry to customers who will not give you this information.

- All service will be seated at tables. There will be no standing and no service at the bar. Hotel bars can serve alcohol without food from 23rd September.
- Customers must remain seated once in the premises, apart from using the toilets or other facilities.
- Dancing will be prohibited in hospitality venues. The exception to this is the first dance by the wedding couple which is permitted.
- A maximum of six people from any number of households can be seated at a table in a hospitality venue. Children aged 12 and under will be discounted from the total. More than six will be permitted if they all belong to a single household. For weddings, you can seat a top table which can be beyond these numbers. You can also have larger tables with families joined together at a wedding. Please note that this does not apply to any other event, social gathering or private dining. They are all subject to the rule of six with children 12 and under not included in the numbers.
- Face coverings should be worn to enter and leave the venue and for movement inside. They are not required once seated. This applies to all areas of the hotel when guests are moving about and when they enter the premises. Your staff do not have to wear PPE but should be in a position where they can avail of it. As a business you can make PPE mandatory for certain roles and where social distancing measures can be a challenge.

The regulations will apply to any venue serving alcohol or where alcohol can be brought in and consumed by customers.

There is further work to be done on the provision of music and further restrictions may be announced soon.

Beer bikes will not be permitted to operate.