



Coronavirus Policy

updated 13 April 2021



Kennington Youth Club is committed to upholding excellent levels of health and safety in order to safeguard the health and wellbeing of all our adults, young people, and visitors, and providing activities in a safe environment without risk as far as is reasonably practicable.

The overall responsibility for the implementation of this policy rests with the Management Committee, and the Chair, Jennifer Forder, is Health and Safety Representative.

Whilst Kennington Youth Club already holds a comprehensive Health and Safety policy, it has been deemed necessary to implement a separate policy specifically for the recent outbreak of Coronavirus, COVID-19.

Information about COVID-19

As of 11th March 2020, the World Health Organisation (WHO) classified Coronavirus COVID-19 as a global pandemic. As COVID-19 was a new illness affecting the lungs and airways, health professionals did not know how it was spread from person to person. At the time of updating the policy, science shows it is via transmission between persons via water droplets from coughing/sneezing, and touching unclean surfaces that have previously been contaminated.

Advice

The advice from the WHO at the time of updating this policy was:-

- Stay at home and work from home as much as possible.
- Limit contact with other people.
- Keep your distance from other people not in your household (2 metres apart where possible and where this is not possible, remain a minimum of 1 metre with protection)
- Self-isolate for seven days if you have any of the following conditions:
 - New continuous cough
 - High temperature
- Do not attend the GP surgery or hospital if you present with the above conditions unless it persists for more than seven days.

As of 4th July 2020, Prime Minister Boris Johnson eased full lockdown restrictions. Some adults were able to return to the workplace, schools were reopening in 'bubbles', and pubs and other social venues began to reopen pending individual risk assessments. From July 27th, indoor sports were able to take place. On this date, the government introduced mandatory wearing of masks in shops and similar indoor venues. Schools returned in September, but another full lockdown was issued in November 2020, which was eased, then returned in December 2020. Youth Work was classed as an essential service due to the impact Covid-19 had on young people's wellbeing and the key work we undertake supporting in this area.

As such, Youth Work's guidance around Covid is marginally different to general government guidelines.



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Preventing the spread

The WHO continues to promote the following:-

- wash hands with soap and water often and for 20 seconds.
- always wash your hands when you get home or into work.
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available.
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze.
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards.
- try to avoid close contact with people who are unwell.
- DO NOT touch eyes, nose, or mouth if your hands are not clean.

The government's current message is to 'wash hands, wear a mask, make space.'

Action by Kennington Youth Club

Kennington Youth Club was proactive in promoting good hand-washing techniques to all of its members. As the threat of the virus spreading rose, the club ceased all youth club activities on 14th March 2020. This was in part due to the inability to provide higher-level cleaning on a regular basis, added to the prospect of not being able to fulfil necessary adult to child ratios, as well as the risk to current leaders and linked family members of all persons attending.

The Premises

Kennington Youth Club erected relevant government posters on 14th March 2020 and has updated these since in line with government guidance. As of 1st August, the hall was reopened to hall hirers with the expectation that they would comply with the maximum occupancy and safety guidelines laid down by the committee. This can be found in a separate document specifically for them entitled 'Covid-19 Hall Hire Risk Assessment and Policy'.

Continuing Provision

Direct delivery youth work resumed in the centre in mid-August. At this point, detached and outreach youth work ceased. This was in part due to adult availability. Since 1st September, the club continued to make provision for young people in the form of direct delivery centre based youth work.

In line with the November lockdown, all youth work activity ceased, and in January 2021 resumed digitally. In February 2021, outreach sessions for identified vulnerable young people started.

Online Safeguarding

A 'Wellbeing Hotline' service was set up allowing members to contact leaders for a wellbeing 'chat' if needed. Designated Safeguarding Leads, Roy Peach and Vickie Ward confirmed the details. It was agreed that parents would have to email via the wellbeing email address and from here a Zoom conference call or telephone call could be set up.

Whichever adult held the call (expected to be Roy Peach, Youth Leader) would expect the parent to be present prior to the call and after the call, and to remain within the vicinity of the young person (i.e.: not leave the house) for reasons of safety. The club adult that handled the call would report to another DSL afterwards. It received little traffic but remains in place.



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Forward Planning

The Chair of the committee and the Youth Leader have been closely following government and National Youth Agency guidance respectively and liaising regularly along with the trustees.

From 29th March 2021, some services were permitted to restart, with the majority of centre-based youth work being eased in after Easter. The club is working towards a reopening date of 21st April. This has been in line with National Youth Agency guidelines and has required full risk assessments and action plans to be drawn up.

Hall users

With restrictions easing, and in line with the government's current timetable, the proposed date for the hall to reopen to hall hirers is Monday 17th May 2021.

Risk Assessment

The risk assessment for the premises was updated to include Coronavirus at the start of the pandemic and has been revised again as part of each policy review.

Signed on behalf of the Management Committee:

Name..... **Chairperson**

Signature.....

Date.....

Name..... **Youth Leader**

Signature.....

Date.....

Document version history			Author: Roy Peach, Youth Leader
Version	Date	Amendments	By whom
2	11/05/2020	Full policy update taking into account government advice and that from the National Youth Agency. Provided further detail following committee meeting 21.05.2020	Roy Peach, Youth Leader RP, Youth Leader
3	17/07/2020	Full policy update taking into account government advice and that from the National Youth Agency. Further information provided on provision offered for young people, forward planning, and new section added re hall hirers.	RP, Youth Leader
4	01/10/2020	Full policy update taking into account government advice and that from the National Youth Agency. Further information provided on provision offered, and forward planning.	RP, Youth Leader
5	13/04/2021	Full policy update taking into account government advice and that from the National Youth Agency.	RP, Youth Leader



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	Further information provided on provision offered, and forward planning, as well as details about hall reopening for hirers.	
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