

# Dorchester-on-Thames Village Hall

## Special Conditions of Hire during COVID-19 August 2021

**This document presents some additional conditions of hire which will remain in force until further notice. They are in addition to, and do not replace, the “General Conditions of Hire”.**

**You, the hirer, remain responsible for ensuring those attending your event comply with these guidelines.**

### **Current Situation**

The government has made it clear that most formal Covid restrictions are now lifted. However, they have requested that people “make informed decisions and act carefully and proportionally to manage risk to themselves and others”.

For village halls it is clear that all community events and activities will be able to take place, with risks managed by hirers e.g., through ventilation, encouraging social distancing, use of hand sanitisers etc. Whilst legal restrictions will no longer apply, and government guidance on the use of halls has been removed, guidance on protecting yourself and others remains in place.

It remains important to respect and be considerate of those who are more vulnerable or who may wish to take a more cautious approach, so it will be appropriate at some events that measures (including wearing face masks and social distancing) are taken so that people who are clinically more vulnerable or not yet fully vaccinated can attend.

**To guide hirers on measures still considered appropriate, the Village Hall Committee has formulated a series of recommendations that they strongly advise be followed.**

### **1. Feeling Unwell?**

Please do not attend any event at the village hall if you are suffering any COVID-19 symptoms, or have been told to self-isolate. Anyone developing symptoms within 10 days of visiting the Hall must seek a Covid-19 test.

### **2. Social Distancing**

Whilst formal social distancing regulations have been lifted, the risk of close contact with others should still be considered especially indoors. We therefore expect hirers to adopt seating arrangements with spacing that allow users to feel comfortable whilst attending their event, and take particular care of any persons attending who may be more vulnerable to Covid-19 infection.

### **3. Face Masks**

The wearing of face coverings is still encouraged in indoor settings. Hirers and all those attending their event should:

- a) Wear a face covering upon entering the hall.
- b) Wear one whilst moving around the hall.
- c) Face coverings may usually be removed whilst seated.

### **4. Ventilation**

Aerial transmission of the virus is now understood to be the primary source of infection. Good ventilation (or holding activities outdoors) is the best means of reducing the risk of viral transmission. Hirers should therefore keep the hall as well ventilated as possible, e.g. by keeping windows and (when appropriate) doors open.

## **5. Hand Sanitising**

The hand sanitiser dispensers by the front entrance will be retained. Hirers and all those attending their event should continue to use them, especially upon entering the hall.

## **6. Cleaning**

It has always been the hirer's responsibility to ensure that the premises are left in a clean and tidy state at the end of their event. This continues to be the case.

At the end of your session please continue to pay particular attention to wiping down frequently touched surfaces with the cleaning materials provided.

## **7. Rubbish**

Attendees should dispose of their rubbish by taking it home. Hirers are responsible for emptying rubbish bins at the end of their event.

## **8. NHS Test & Trace**

Facilities such as ours are still being encouraged to assist with NHS Test & Trace. The display of a QR Code at the entrance will remain. All users are encouraged to either scan it upon arrival or add their contact details to an attendance sheet which should be retained by the hirer for a period of 21 days.

## **9. Kitchen and Toilets**

The kitchen, and all the toilets are again available for use.

Thank you!