



**Northern Ireland
Executive**

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Current COVID-19 regulations and guidance: what they mean for indoor seated venues

New relaxations on social distancing came into effect on 30 September. While these changes removed the requirement for social distancing in indoor seated venues, the Executive reminds sectors of the regulations remaining in law and recommending additional mitigations that should be put in place to limit the risk of transmission.

Your responsibility

It is your responsibility as an employer, business owner or manager of a premise to ensure that you are complying with the current regulations and guidance in place.

The current regulations are available on the Department of Health website at <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/health-protection-coronavirus-restrictions-regulations-northern-ireland-2021>

Keep in mind that some of the restrictions are in law through regulation, while others are guidance. These remain in place to help stop the spread of COVID-19 and we ask that you continue to protect your customers and your employees by following public health advice.

If you fail to comply with the regulations without reasonable excuse, you are committing an offence. For some offences you may be given a fixed penalty or a fine on summary prosecution. Find out more at <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/coronavirus-covid-19-regulations-compliance-and-penalties>

Current requirements in COVID-19 regulations

Indoor seated venues must:

- Require wearing of face coverings;
- Record visitor and attendee information; and
- Perform a risk assessment and produce it if requested

Audiences for indoor events must be seated and guests must remain seated, (unless using facilities). Dancing is not permitted for audience members.

Face coverings must be worn when seated and when moving about the venue.

This page is an overview of what you can and cannot do. It is not a definitive statement of the law and should not be relied upon as such.

Live music events (indoor and outdoor), without restriction to volume levels, must be effectively controlled and managed.

Venues are required to collect customer details to help with the Test, Trace, Protect contact tracing programme. Customer details will include the:

- name and telephone number of each visitor over the age of 16; and
- date and time of their visit

Recommended mitigations

Indoor attractions and venues must take reasonable measures to help to reduce the spread of COVID-19, this includes:

- limiting entry to those either fully vaccinated or with a negative LFT or a positive PCR in previous 30-180 days
- hand sanitiser stations
- use of protective screens
- good ventilation
- use of one way systems (if possible)
- minimising close face to face contact
- regular cleaning especially for high contact areas like card machines

Current regulations do not require social distancing in indoor seated venues or outdoor venues. However, social distancing remains strongly advised where possible, and should be considered alongside other risk mitigations to limit the risk of transmission.

Areas of indoor seated venues where food or drink is sold or provided come under hospitality regulations. In these areas social distancing of 1m continues to be a legal requirement.

Risk mitigations should be detailed in your risk assessments.

Proof of COVID status

Premises are advised to limit entry to those either fully vaccinated or with a negative LFT or a positive PCR in previous 30-180 days.

While the Executive is currently considering options on the use of domestic certification there are ways to check COVID Status as outlined in the table below.

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COVID Status	Examples of proof
Fully vaccinated	<p>Photographic identification for example a drivers licence or passport to verify identity and match evidence of vaccination; AND</p> <p>COVID-19 Immunisation record card – should include name of vaccine, batch number and date given; OR</p> <p>COVID-19 Certificate for those who have travelled or plan to travel in the next 3 months; OR</p> <p>Coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccination confirmation – letter showing participation in Vaccine trial and being fully vaccinated</p>
Negative LFT	<p>Photographic identification for example a drivers licence or passport to verify identity and match evidence of test result; AND</p> <p>Text proof of a negative result being reported to the NHS – date and result should be clearly visible with the test having been taken within 24 hours prior to attendance at the venue.</p>
Positive PCR in previous 30-180 days	<p>Photographic identification for example a drivers licence or passport to verify identity and match evidence of vaccination; AND</p> <p>Email or text proof of a positive test result - date and test result should be clearly visible and should be at least 30 days prior to entry to the venue but no more than 180 days prior.</p>

Find out more about COVID-19 Testing, including how to get tested on nidirect at <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/coronavirus-covid-19-testing>

Workforce testing for COVID-19

<https://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/content/coronavirus-workplace-covid-19-testing>

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