



Essex Beekeepers' Association

CEC Guidance for EBKA Divisions on Covid 19 Precautions for the 2021 Beekeeping Season

The Government advice on Covid 19 restrictions in 2021 are ongoing and complex. In order that Government Rules are followed in a timely way and with utmost caution, the Trustees of EBKA, as the responsible persons, are providing guidelines and requirements below for all divisional events.

During the 2020 season, as events unfolded, different divisions interpreted the Rules, or responded to them differently. What you might interpret as suitable for yourself, might not be sufficiently cautious for an Association like ours. If there is any doubt, please send details of planned activities, with Risk Assessments, to the CEC (either the General Secretary or the Chair) before the event.

EBKA Guidance:

1. Consideration of who may/may not have had vaccinations or who has been shielding is not a suitable criterion for assessing safety for gatherings – use Government Guidelines.
2. Make sure Risk Assessments are comprehensive and updated to take account of the Government Guidelines.
3. When organising a meeting outside, make sure there is compliance with the Rules on the event premises at all times, including before and after the formal proceedings.
4. When organising meetings inside (after 17 May at the earliest) also check that the venue rules are adequate and comprehensive.
5. Require and provide hand sanitiser on arrival.
6. Ensure social distancing is 2m or 1m with masks.
7. Restrict refreshments – despite their popularity. Members must provide their own refreshments whilst any eating & drinking has to be ordered and consumed while seated at a table before 21st June. Socially distanced self-catering is less stringent but err on the side of caution when involved in EBKA events, bearing in mind any problems with toilet facilities and disposal/washing of catering equipment.
8. Choose outdoor meetings, where possible, even as indoor rules are being relaxed.
9. Be aware that Government Guidelines could change at any time and at short notice. Compliance with these Guidelines is essential at all times.

Please refer to Gov.uk website, but here is a quick check against Government Guidelines: -

Possibly after 29th March

Outdoor gatherings of up to 6 people allowed. Be aware of social distancing at all times.
We are not a formally organised sport!
Activities could include individuals visiting the apiary of a beekeeper who needs help and also demonstrating to 2 or 3, if sufficiently separated

Possibly after 12th April

Outdoor gatherings of up to 6 people allowed. Outdoor hospitality with table ordering/service. No sharing of toilet facilities 'with other households'
Suitable meetings including 6 people as above – perhaps with self-catering?

Possibly after 17th May

Meetings of up to 30 people allowed. Indoors - Rule of 6. Maintain social distancing.
*An outdoor apiary meeting more like what is familiar is possible, but with self-catering.
More hives than usual will be required to ensure social distancing.*

Possibly after 21st June

Lifting of restrictions.
Indoor meetings become feasible.

All rules are subject to change, so please remain vigilant.

Good Luck!

JMR 3/3/21