



# **Guidance for Residential/Overnight Stays and International Education Visits**

22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021

## **Contents:**

Introduction to Residential/Overnight Stay Guidance	Page 3
Guidance for Management of Residentials/Overnight Stays	Page 3
International Youth Work Guidance	Page 5
Additional Support Materials	Page 6
Appendix i – Residential/Overnight Stay Risk Assessment Template	Page 7

## 1.0 Introduction to Residential/Overnight Stay Guidance

1.1 The proposed easements for the delivery of residential/overnight stays in Northern Ireland are contingent to the health and safety arrangements laid out by the Northern Ireland Executive with oversight from the Department of Education and PHA guidance and may be reviewed at any stage based on scientific data relating to Covid-19.

1.2 Residential/overnight settings can resume the delivery of services in a stepped approach outlined below with each step subject to confirmation by PHA.

Step	Permissible Delivery	Duration
<b>*Indicative date to commence subject to PHA advice</b>		
1	A maximum of 35 participants permitted for overnight stays from a single visiting group/school (see also section 2)	4 weeks From 1/11/2021
2	A maximum of 60 participants permitted for overnight stays from up to 3 visiting groups (see also section 2)	8 weeks From 29/11/2021*
3	Return to normal operation delivered in line with at the time PHA guidance, including test trace and protect	- From 24/1/2022*

## 2.0 Guidance for Management of Residentials/Overnight Stays

2.1 Maximum visiting group size as outlined in 1.2 per residential site using shared sleeping accommodation, with leadership for the programme proportionate to the needs of group, to ensure effective risk management and safeguarding.

2.2 If staff members or participants test positive for Covid-19, those who shared the same sleeping accommodation will be considered a close contact and will be required to comply with PHA guidance.

2.3 If there are day groups visiting the site in addition to an onsite residential group, they must remain within their group, meaning spaces within the site or venue are isolated for the sole use of that visiting group.

- 2.3.1 Separate accommodation/designated areas for meals OR separate meals times with a cleaning regime in place between sittings.
  - 2.3.2 Separate and dedicated shower for the exclusive use of that group only OR allocated times with a cleaning regime in place between visiting user groups.
  - 2.3.3 Separate programme delivery spaces for the exclusive use of that visiting group only.
  - 2.3.4 Have appropriate migrations in place to ensure and facilitate test trace and protect in agreement with PHA.
  - 2.3.5 No mixing between the visiting groups either as part of a programme or during “downtime”.
- 2.4 Lateral Flow Testing for Covid-19 should be provided for users (staff and participants) prior to programme delivery and periodically throughout the programme as advised by the Department of Health and Social Care mass testing guidance for staff/volunteers and participants aged 11 years or older. Participation in lateral flow testing is voluntary. (Register your outdoor/residential centre for testing here: <https://request-onboarding.test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/private-public/> ). Approach to testing remains subject to review with PHA.
- 2.5 Where a staff member or participant in the programme tests positive by the appropriate testing method OR displays symptoms of Covid-19 all groups must follow the [DE Guidance – Section 3: Identification and Response to Symptoms](#)
- 2.6 Other mitigations should be in place as per [DE Guidance – Section 2: Reduction of Virus Transmission](#)
- 2.7 Outdoor activities/programmes should be provided within the visiting group (day group or residential group) with clear cleaning and turnaround procedures in place before another visiting group uses the same equipment.

- 2.8 All residential/overnight providers and visiting groups follow the guidance onsite as outlined in “[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Guidance for Schools and Educational Settings in Northern Ireland](#)” in particular;
- 2.8.1 [Section 2: Reduction of Virus Transmission](#)
- 2.8.2 [Section 3: Identification and Response to Symptoms](#)
- 2.9 All residential/overnight providers and visiting groups follow the guidance for the delivery of programme including guidance outlined for; transport, cleaning, catering, curriculum delivery, vulnerable pupils, special schools, music & singing and education visits – more information is contained at the link [Section 4: Operations](#).
- 2.10 All group leaders collect the relevant information on participants to facilitate test trace and protect in agreement as per the arrangements for the identification of children and young people of school age close contacts in and out of school settings.
- 2.11 The continued delivery of residential/overnight stays is dependent on all youth organisations following the outlined guidance in this document. All easements for the delivery of youth services in Northern Ireland **will take into account the views of the Department of Education and PHA and may be reviewed at any stage based on scientific data relating to Covid-19.**

### **3.0 International Youth Work Guidance**

- 3.1 A key aspect of residential provision is the delivery of International Youth Work.
- 3.2 The approval framework for any international educational visit is currently governed by the *Education Authority Educational Visits* process. This process provides assurances on the planning, risk assessments and deliver of youth work in a safe environment in line with the relevant Department of Education policies.
- 3.3 All international visits are categorised as a Category 4 – Major Visit Programme and the current timeframes for the planning and approval of international visits are:
- Mainland UK: 6 weeks notice
  - Mainland Europe: 12 weeks notice

- Outside Mainland Europe: 24 weeks notice
- 3.4 Planning for the delivery of International Youth Work for young people can commence from 1 November 2021 delivered in line with the guidance onsite as outlined in “[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Guidance for Schools and Educational Settings in Northern Ireland](#)” in particular;
- 3.4.1 [Section 2: Reduction of Virus Transmission](#)
  - 3.4.2 [Section 3: Identification and Response to Symptoms](#)
  - 3.4.3 [Section 4: Operations](#)
- 3.5 Groups should ensure their planning incorporates how they will comply with the health and safety, and international travel legislation arrangements in all jurisdictions the young people will attend as part of the visit.
- 3.6 Groups should be aware that regulations may change during a visit and, to ensure continued compliance with international travel legislation. Groups should have contingency plans in place to account for potential changes.
- 3.7 Guidance for International Travel can be found on the [Foreign Travel Advice section](#) on Government website.

#### **4.0 Additional Support Materials**

- 4.1 The Education Authority has provided a range of [resources to facilitate](#) the delivery of youth work including guidance for education visits, risk assessments, planning and preparation tools.

## Appendix i - Residential/Overnight Stay Risk Assessment

Hazard	To Whom	Severity	Likelihood	Risk
Infection transmission as a result of an overnight/residential stay	Children and young people	1	3	3
	Staff	3	3	9
	Wider community	3	2	6
Existing Precautions		Additional Precautions	Who	When
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre visit checks completed with the overnight stay provider to ensure that Covid-19 mitigations are in place and can facilitate your requirements for the delivery of the programme safely</li> <li>• All staff wear face coverings/PPE when working within less than 2 metres with participants (or other staff) on the programme</li> <li>• Children, young people and staff maintain maximum possible social distancing within the space provided</li> <li>• Maximum group size of young people for the current step of delivery and proportionate levels of staff only to ensure Health &amp; Safety and Safeguarding the group</li> <li>• Building and spaces for the exclusive use of the group and not shared or accessed by other users or public</li> <li>• Hand sanitiser points provided throughout the centre and during programme sessions with an education programme in place to ensure participants &amp; staff regularly wash their hands</li> <li>• Meals are provided within the visiting group only, in particular when other users are sharing the site with cleaning regimes in place between visiting group usage</li> <li>• Identified toilet and shower facilities provided per visiting group on site, where separate shower facilities are not an option, allocated usage times provided per bubble with a cleaning regime between uses</li> </ul>				

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Outdoor activities/programmes provided only within visiting group only, with cleaning regime between visiting group uses of the same the equipment</li><li>• Allocated and isolated zones within the centre for visiting group usage only, with no cross over of other users, including spaces for group during “downtime” outside of core programme delivery</li><li>• Visiting group has completed risk assessment for the education visit which includes mitigations for Covid-19 transmission in relation to programmed activity</li><li>• Information collected from participants with consent of parent/guardian to facilitate test trace and protect</li><li>• Full compliance with PHA test trace and protect service</li><li>• Lateral flow tests completed and carried out periodically during the delivery of the programme</li><li>• All organisations education visit approval processes followed and approved</li><li>• Where a staff member or participant in the programme tests positive by Lateral Flow Testing OR displays symptoms of Covid-19 all groups must follow the <a href="#">DE Guidance – Section 3: Identification and Response to Symptoms</a></li></ul>			
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