

## COVID-19 and access to huts

Many of the remaining legal restrictions on mixing indoors were lifted in Wales (on 7th August) and Scotland (on 9th August) bringing things largely into line with the situation in England from 19th July. However, some restrictions on travel and access may continue in certain areas.

As noted in the last update in late July, guidance issued by the BMC and Mountaineering Scotland on 17th July (see link [here . . .](#)) requires visitors to ventilate huts on arrival and to clean touch surfaces.

For the time being, the following hut access arrangements remain in place:

- Members must book in advance to stay at huts (this includes staying in a bunk room, camping or in a van - camping and sleeping in vans are not necessarily permitted at every hut, please check in advance);
- Make bookings via the temporary booking system (members area when logged on to the website) or by contacting the Hut Booking Secretary;
- The number of visitors is restricted to one group per bunk room (group size is further restricted by the capacity of the bunk rooms which vary from hut to hut);
- Helyg has only one sitting/ sleeping area and can accommodate only one group in the hut;
- RO Downes, Grange Old School, Cwm Glas Mawr and May Cottage can accommodate two groups in two bunk rooms each;
- Riasg and the Count House have more bunk rooms so can accommodate a larger number of groups;
- Unless attending a formal, organised meet, where the Meet Leaders can make reasonable and appropriate arrangements to accommodate a larger number of groups and ensure sensible social distancing and use of common parts (kitchen/ dining areas, washing/ ablutions areas), the overall number of groups at each hut is subject to a maximum number taking account of bunk rooms and additional number of camping and van slots. All this is viewable on the temporary booking system;
- Day use car parking for members is also accommodated, with access to washing/ablutions facilities.

Whatever may or may not be permitted by law, the reported number of new cases of Coronavirus infection remains high (in the tens of thousands across the UK) and it makes sense for us all to remain cautious about mixing indiscriminately in large numbers indoors with people who are not part of our normal group. Members and

their guests choosing to use our huts should exercise caution in terms of mixing with anyone else on site, bring hand sanitiser and disinfectant wipes and also a face covering in case the circumstances require this when using common parts of the huts. We are keeping this under regular review and want to restore things to a 'pre-Pandemic normal' as soon as this appears reasonable and appropriate in line with BMC and Mountaineering Scotland guidance.