

FAQS for Community Buildings and Village Halls

- See our '[Coronavirus](#)' page on our website for daily updates.
- We have lots of information online about [funding and financial help](#) that can support you at this time.
- The government has produced specific [guidance for the charity sector](#) which might prove useful

Should we close our hall?

Government guidance is clear, unless you are providing an [essential service](#) then your hall should be closed.

Do we need to let our insurer know we are closed?

Latest information from [Norris & Fisher](#) and [Allied Westminster](#):

"Following the Government announcement of Friday 20 March, we have updated the position on Temporarily Unoccupied Buildings. We would consider this to be where you have followed Government advice to close your Insured Premises and it will be out of use for up to 90 consecutive days. There is no need to notify us that your Insured Premises has closed temporarily due to the Covid-19 outbreak."

Please check with your individual insurer to see if this applies to your policy.

Do we need to do anything now our hall is closed?

Guidance is that, at present, you don't need to inform you insurer that your hall is closed. See this [update](#) (25 March 20) from Norris & Fischer.

Do we still need to pay rates?

ACRE have confirmed that the "[Expanded Retail Discount Relief](#)", or extension of Business Rates relief, applies to charitable halls and CASCs, meaning they should receive 100% rate relief this year.

Should we close our playground, sport courts etc?

The government has advised that all playgrounds and outdoor gyms should be closed. See ACRE's [notice poster](#)

Will my insurer cover loss of income whilst our hall is closed?

This is very unlikely, but will depend on individual policies. You should check you policy and contact your insurer for further details.

Is there any support available to cover ongoing fixed costs?

Hopefully you will have a pot of reserves that you can use and the halls reserve policy will list the use of reserve funds for operational costs. You may also be able to apply for funding (visit our [Funding & financial help](#) web page for more information).

The revised [BEIS guidance](#) confirms that Village Halls/Community Buildings and similar charities already in receipt of full rate relief will be eligible for the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant (if their Rateable Value is under £52K). The wording is:

S24: "Charities which would otherwise meet this criteria but whose bill for 11 March had been reduced to nil by a local discretionary award should still be considered to be eligible for the RHL grant."

We have a caretaker, cleaner, member of staff who we are no longer able to pay, is there any support available?

Our Employment Support Advisors have written [advice for staff, guidance on Statutory Sick Pay \(SSP\) in relation to self-isolation](#) and guidance on the [Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme](#).

We are part way through building works, the delay will impact on the terms of our funding contracts, can we extend our project?

Many funders will appreciate that these are extraordinary times and will be very understanding. Please contact your funder as soon as possible to discuss any possible changes, impacts or extensions to your funding contract.

If work is able to continue on your building, please be aware of the [Construction Leadership Council guidelines](#) for protecting contractors on site during Covid-19.

CPR and resuscitation in community settings

The Resuscitation Council UK have issued a [Statement on COVID-19](#) in relation to CPR and resuscitation in first aid and community settings

What else can I do to support my community?

If you would like to volunteer to support other members of your community please [read our 'how to' guide](#).

If you have any other questions regarding your village hall or community building please do get in touch: communitybuildings@communityfirstyorkshire.org.uk

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