



Return to the “New Normal” Lions Clubs Ireland

As the Government ease and reapply restrictions we as Lions can return to operating but in a new way until a vaccine has been developed and has been widely distributed within the community.

We as Lions operate in a high-risk field as it relates to Covid 19, this is due to the fact that a percentage of our members are in the high-risk category and a lot of work that we do are with those in the high risk category.

What is being proposed is that once the government announce each change to the phases. Guidelines will be issued in relation to how this impacts Lions activities. This maybe segmented as Northern Ireland may not take the same approach as the Republic.

The rationale for not issuing the guidelines prior to this are that human nature as it is if guidelines are issued, they may be enacted immediately rather waiting for the approved time and the changes may not be introduced as we have seen in the past.

It must be noted that the risk of Covid 19 should for the foreseeable future be included in the risk assessments for each project. Examples will be issued with the revised guidance at each phase.

Clubs should also be mindful that the control measures that need to be put in place due to the risk of Covid 19 may mean that the project or event in practicality may run but it may not be in the best interest of the club for it to go ahead due to the following reasons;

1. The numbers are limited which means it is not financially viable
2. The perceived risk even though controlled may have a negative impact on the perception of Lions in the community.
3. The cost and management of the controls required maybe prohibitive.

In relation to Club meeting they should continue to be conducted via Zoom/Skype/teams or some similar platform. Where face to face meetings are required to take place, they should be kept to a minimum number of people, social distancing, face covering when under two metres or if the meeting will last more than 15 minutes and hand washing. Also note that a log of attendees and contact details must be retained for contact tracing if required.

On the Lions District 133 Website <http://www.lionsclubs.ie/members-area> there is a chart that gives a quick guide to the risks associated with activities as they pertain to Covid 19

The government guidelines and advice are available on the websites below.

ROI: <https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/c36c85-covid-19-coronavirus/>

NI: <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/coronavirus-covid-19-overview-and-advice>

Any queries let me know by email or phone.

Stay Safe
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