

Labour Party Safeguarding Guidance

Guidelines

for safe activities during COVID-19 outbreak

Guidelines for safe activities during COVID-19 outbreak

The UK, Scottish and Welsh Governments have announced additional measures in relation to Coronavirus. This included the closure of all non-essential shops and public spaces and that you should only leave the house for one of four reasons (see below). Even when doing these activities, you should be minimising time spent outside of the home and ensuring you are 2 metres apart from anyone outside of your household.

- Shopping for basic necessities, for example food and medicine, which must be as infrequent as possible.
- One form of exercise a day, for example a run, walk, or cycle - alone or with members of your household.
- Any medical need, or to provide care or to help a vulnerable person.
- Travelling to and from work, but only where this absolutely cannot be done from home.

Members, volunteers and staff should avoid face to face activity unless it is necessary and meets UK Government and devolved administrations advice. Our members, volunteers and staff will continue to support our communities but we'll be finding new ways to do this, online, by phone and in other ways too. It's important that when we're organising any new activity that we remember our responsibility to ensure that it is delivered safely and in accordance with our safeguarding policy, procedures and guidance.

The Labour Party believes that it is unacceptable for anyone to experience abuse of any kind, in any circumstances, including through social media and other online activity. Children, young people and adults who may be at risk of abuse have a legal right to protection from all forms of abuse. We have a duty of care to ensure that this remains the case throughout all contact they have with us.

You can find guidance below on how you can ensure that your member activities during the COVID-19 outbreak are as safe as possible and delivered in a way that protects children, young members and adults who may be at risk of abuse. You can find a range of safeguarding resources at labour.org.uk/safeguarding.

You can find volunteering opportunities to support your local communities at:

<https://www.goodsamapp.org/NHS>

<https://www.volunteerscotland.net/for-volunteers/volunteer/ways-to-volunteer-during-covid-19/>

<https://reserves.redcross.org.uk/>

Video calls

- Zoom or video conferences with a large number of participants are best delivered where the videos of key individuals are highlighted, rather than all members. This reduces the risk to members such as children and adults at risk who may join by video and ensures that members are able to get the most from each session. It is best to stream video of key speakers and have a moderator who can organise questions and member contributions.
- If you're running a smaller zoom or video conferencing session make sure all members, and in particular children follow the advice below:
 - If young members under eighteen take part in a Zoom or video conference call they shouldn't do it from their bedroom. It's best to be in a family area such as the living room with parents nearby.

Guidelines for safe activities during COVID-19 outbreak

- Many apps let you blur your background. You should recommend to young members that they use this function. Let young members know that they should remove anything that identifies them or where they live. Personal items are also best removed.
- If joining a call with a handle or user name, you, and young members, should use a nick name or first name rather than full name.
- Members should not share personal details or contact children using messaging facilities during Zoom calls.

WhatsApp/messaging

WhatsApp and other social messaging apps can pose significant safeguarding risk to children and adults at risk. The Safeguarding Unit recommend that this is not used in order to communicate with volunteers/members as these cannot be externally monitored. If it is to be used it should be set as a broadcast function rather than a group where individual's contact details are visible.

The use of text messaging to communicate with individual young participants increases the vulnerability of both the young person and the member, volunteer or elected representative.

- Volunteers and members should **never** store young members' contact details on their phone.
- Volunteers and members should **never** engage in general conversation with children and young members via message as part of their role in the Party.
- **Therefore, any people included in a WhatsApp group must be over the age of eighteen.**
- **All communications must be sent through our volunteer management platform Organise.**

Social media

The use of social networks such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram can have a positive impact on members and their ability to engage in political debate.

We should be alert to the potential risks and dangers that online activity can pose to children, young people and adults at risk. We must ensure that any digital or online communication meets the standards set out in the Safeguarding Code of Conduct and the Labour Party Social Media Policy. You can find copies of the party's safeguarding procedures and guidance at labour.org.uk/safeguarding.

Selfie videos

If using selfie videos from members under the age of eighteen, you will need to record that you have their permission. The best way to obtain this permission is in writing.

You can use the Labour Party Photography and Video Permission form which we have changed for specific use during COVID-19. You can find an updated version on the safeguarding section of the party website.

Please check for the latest government advice on Covid-19 at:

www.gov.uk

www.gov.scot

www.gov.wales