

Statement

Subud Britain wishes to protect the general public and its members from the risks associated with the Covid-19 Pandemic. We recommend that all the officers, members, employees, volunteers and those working on behalf of Subud Britain, follow all guidelines issued by HM Government to prevent and control the spread of Covid-19. The guidelines can be found at the links included in this policy and we recommend that you read the full guidance. We have distilled some essential items here.

Signed on behalf of the National Council of Subud Britain --- Louise Mackenzie
National Chairperson,
14 September 2020

The Latihan and the Law

For the avoidance of doubt, the guidance published by the government states that use of the word 'should' is guidance and 'must' is the law. Since 14th September The Rule of Six has been in place restricting indoor and outdoor gatherings to 6 people maximum. Places of worship are exempt as they are considered 'Covid-secure Venues' as long as the following protocols are observed :-

- A Covid-19 Risk Assessment **must** be in place to ensure the place of worship is Covid-19 secure, this is a legal requirement. Assistance and a template example are available, please email sbnatexecchair@gmail.com.
- Social Distance - 2 metres or 1 metre with risk mitigation (where 2 metres is not viable) between households is acceptable. Any mitigations **must** be explained and justified in the Risk Assessment.
- Masks **must** be worn and windows and doors open where possible to provide airflow. This is by law: '[from 8 August, face coverings are also required by law to be worn in a greater number of public indoor settings including places of worship](#)'
- Anyone with Covid-19 symptoms **must** self-isolate for 14 days or until receipt of a negative test.
- Groups **must** to follow any relevant local and/or national lockdown restrictions.
- Anyone returning from specific foreign countries **must** quarantine for 14 days by law.
- The maximum number of attendees, up to an absolute maximum of 30, should be calculated based on the size of the room and in relation to any risk mitigations in place.
- To assist with Track and Trace a temporary record of attendance should be kept for 21 days.
- Attendees should sanitise or wash hands prior to entering and leaving the venue.
- Vulnerable persons: those over 70 and/or those shielding are strongly advised to avoid attending group latihans for the time being.

The government reminds us that failure to complete a Covid-19 Risk Assessment could constitute a breach of Health & Safety legislation, as could having a risk assessment with insufficient measures set out. Please send your completed risk assessment to sbnatexecchair@gmail.com.

If you have already completed a risk assessment, and sent it to the above address for Subud Britain to keep on file, and this updated policy requires that you make changes to your risk assessment then please adjust and resend stating explicitly that this is an update.

In addition to the legal requirements, the government strongly advises the following to reduce the risk of Covid-19 transmission :-

- Explain in your RA how to reduce the risks during transport to and from the latihan.
- When entering and leaving the building, wash hands thoroughly or use hand sanitiser.
- Inform and display guidance for hand and surface cleaning.
- Subud-owned venues will need to maintain supplies of hand sanitiser and PPE available to attendees and increase their cleaning, especially of frequently used spaces and surfaces.
- Limit the time of the meeting to the necessary minimum, (a quiet, the latihan and a quiet).
- Singing, shouting and speaking loudly increases the generation of droplets, places of worship are being advised to minimise singing, restrict it to certain groups and ask congregations not to sing. This is tricky in our circumstances in regards to how singing and other utterances arise spontaneously during the latihan. Places of worship are now being advised to follow the [Performing Arts Guidance](#) in relation to singing. This includes facing away from others whilst singing, reducing the volume of singing (singing softly), keeping doors and windows open and wearing masks. With care and by following guidelines and requirements we can balance surrender with awareness and keep ourselves and each other safe.
- During and after the latihan, members are to maintain social distancing.
- As the Covid-19 droplets fall to the floor, so hand contact with the floor is to be avoided, as is kneeling or lying down.
- No shared items, like prayer mats are allowed and shoes that are removed should be kept away from others and only handled by their owner, the same for coats and other personal items. If carpets can be rolled up this makes it easier to keep floors clean.

The Risk Assessment

Its purpose is to assess the risks to people regarding the place of worship and record what is needed to reduce this risk to an acceptable level. In addition to those directly involved, others may be affected and so must be considered.

Currently we are advising property managing groups to focus on resumption of latihan by conducting their required risk assessments for this activity at the hall. Enterprise activities should be considered on a case by case basis and risk assessed individually. Subud Britain's interim health and safety officer, Susannah Bolt 07376601116 should be contacted for advice on risk assessing other hall uses besides latihan as well as advice on conducting your risk assessment for latihan. It should be noted that Susannah Bolt is not a qualified health and safety officer (although she does run a Saturday Drama School and so is experienced with undertaking Covid and other risk assessments in a performing arts educational context).

Those groups who hire space for latihan from external bodies who are willing to offer space again should ask to see that space's risk assessment and add their own latihan-specific risk assessment and put in place risk reduction strategies for that specific context. They will need to work closely with their venue to mitigate the risks involved. Please discuss cleaning regimens with your venue.

Please note that the transmission rate can only be reduced, no actions currently available can fully halt Covid-19. It is really about protecting others and trusting they will take care to protect you. We can minimize but not eliminate the risks involved.

Review

This policy will remain under constant review and be a standing item on every trustee meeting agenda for the foreseeable future. The policy is informed by updated information available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do>

And here:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/further-businesses-and-premises-to-close?utm_source=479ba2d4-0b4c-468e-b978-fb1a52abfb4a&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate

And here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship-during-the-pandemic/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship-during-the-pandemic#section4>

Scotland has a slightly different route map which will need to be considered. Latest information can be found here:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-framework-decision-making-scotlands-route-map-through-out-crisis-phase-2-update/pages/5/>

Wales also has a different route map:

<https://gov.wales/coronavirus-regulations-guidance>