

## COVID-19 – Further guidance for BCA award holders

With lockdown easing to some degree in all regions across the UK, it is clear that there is now scope for award holders to re-engage in instructing/coaching activities, albeit in a reduced capacity.

Safety of yourself, your clients and third parties must remain paramount to any activity carried out as a BCA award holder.

Second to this, the guidelines laid down by the Home Nations, which still vary and change regularly, should be adhered to - see [QMC Covid-19 guidance - 1](#) for website links.

Currently (on 20.6.20), social distancing of 2 metres remains a common requisite for each of the Home Nations. Variations are mainly linked to the numbers of people who can gather together and distances that they can travel:

### England

- Groups of up to six people from different households are permitted, in an outdoor area
- No restriction on distance travelled, but return should generally be the same day

### Wales

- Work should be outside, with clients on their own (or with members of one household)
- Local to (within 5 miles) of their client's home

See latest guidance published by [WATO](#)

### Scotland

- Members of two other households may gather in outdoor spaces
- Travel should be limited

### Northern Ireland

- Groups of up to nine people can gather in outdoor spaces
- No travel limits, but distance should be responsible and reasonable

*Cavers are advised to not consider crossing a border from England into Wales or Scotland.*

Please also consider the [current BCA statement](#)

### **Returning to work responsibly:**

- Any cave related activity should meet 'up to the moment' Government public health guidance regarding health, travel, social distancing and hygiene.
- Safety **must** come first. A comprehensive 'COVID-19 risk assessment' should complement existing risk assessments, with the aim of minimising the incidence of transmission of infection or risk of injury. This should be reassessed regularly and shared with clients.

### **Consider:**

- Venue choice - retain flexibility. Caves remain closed in some areas and land owners may still not welcome visitors
- Group size - as small as possible and within Government guidelines
- Methods of communicating effectively whilst maintaining social distancing
- Personal hygiene and cleaning of equipment
- Travel practicalities
- Insurance limitations

[QMC covid-19 guidance - 2](#) expands on detail and provides links to regional caving council advice.

**BE PROFESSIONAL - STAY SAFE - BE CONSIDERATE**