

FUN PALACES



SAFETY AND COVID-19

Updated 06/09/2023

With Covid numbers on the rise this Autumn, although we are in a very different place to a few years ago, it is worth bearing in mind not everyone will be or feel safe attending a crowded in-person event indoors. [This blog written by Jo Verrent from Unlimited](#) explains in a little more detail the ongoing complications of Covid for clinically vulnerable and disabled people. Below we will share some suggestions of precautions you may want to take for your Fun Palace, as well as ways in which you may be able to enable people to join in from home.

HOW CAN WE KEEP OUR FUN PALACE SAFE DURING COVID 19?

Below are a couple of resources that may help, offering information on how to reduce the risk of transmission:

[Current NHS Guidelines on reducing the spread of COVID-19](#)

[World Health Organisation guidelines](#)

SOME BASICS:

Although in person, indoor gatherings are now taking place much as they were pre-pandemic, it may still be worth considering how you can make those exercising more caution around COVID-19 feel welcome and safe at your Fun Palace. Can some (or all) elements of your Fun Palace take place outside? We know that outside and spaces with good airflow reduce the risk of transmission. Further apart is safer than heads and faces being close, can you ensure that spaces don't get too overcrowded? Remember, Tiny Fun Palaces are an option and still a valid Fun Palace - in fact Tiny Fun Palaces are usually fabulous! There's a blog [here](#) on making Tiny and Last minute Fun Palaces.

Other precautions you may want to take to help people feel more comfortable:

- Leave gates or doors open so people don't have to touch the handles and regularly wipe down surfaces touched by several people.
- Keep windows open to help air circulation at an indoor event.
- Although no longer mandatory in parts of the UK, you may still want to wear a face covering, and encourage others to do so in smaller indoor spaces. A parade of decorated face coverings could be part of your Fun Palace. Also think about participants who need to see faces, like those who lip-read.
- Provide bins for people to discard used masks when they leave.
- You could ask people to use their own equipment (e.g. paper, pens) or provide them in a wide tray rather than a container to reach into. Provide another tray for "used" materials.
- If you can, provide a handwashing station with soap, water (ideally hot water), paper towels, and a bin, or hand sanitising station. Hygiene stations will need to be cleaned too.

- In a larger space think about how people will move around.

A tiny Fun Palace is unlikely to need public liability insurance, but if you have it through your venue or job, check it is still valid and the conditions you need to fulfil to keep it valid.

WAYS TO FUN PALACE ONLINE OR REMOTELY

Over the past few years we have seen several Fun Palaces take place online using numerous platforms. Some have even followed a hybrid model of being part online, part in person. Visit our [Digital Fun Palaces toolkit](#) to find out what platforms are available to you.

Ideas for including those who may want to join in at home or without having to be present at the Fun Palace venue:

Live stream or record and upload a talk, demonstration or activity so people can watch and participate from home. With tech available nowadays you can do this easily with a phone.

Organise an entirely online session as part of your Fun Palace using a platform such as Zoom. You could lead an origami workshop, language learning session, storytelling gathering, you could teach others how to make your favourite recipe, or get together to discuss how you're going to solve an issue or challenge your community is currently facing. Just remember if people will need to prep anything to take part - let them know in advance (and try to keep materials / ingredients to things people are likely to have at home, or can get hold of easily / cheaply).

Offer a downloadable activity as a PDF, that people can either download to a device or print at home. It could be a treasure trail, local history fact sheet and walk / wheel route, or a 'How to' sheet for a craft activity. We have lots of examples of these in the [Tiny Revolutions / Creative Riots](#) section of our website.

Set a picture challenge! Ask people to send photos - perhaps of something they saw in their local area that was unexpected. Or how about seeing if, as a community, you can gather as many pictures as you can of local flowers, plants and animals and identify them. Upload them all to a website, or find a place in your local area where you can print and display the photos.

[Here are some detailed accessibility guidelines](#) from the Disability Collaborative Network and the School of Health Sciences University of East Anglia.

And some useful general guidance on organising a voluntary event [is here](#) (not taking into account pandemics).