

Parks for London - Covid – 19 Guidance

Re-opening Cafés and Ice Cream Vans in Parks – Guidance (updated 3rd June 2020)

Revised Covid-19 government guidance was published on 13th May and 1st June 2020, which allows for the easing of some lockdown measures; this includes new [guidance accessing green space](#) and which [businesses can reopen](#) (such as food businesses for takeaway only).

Boroughs are likely to assess if and how park cafés and ice cream van concessions can reopen, where this can be done safely for both staff and the public. Under new guidelines it is now permissible to spend time outdoors such as sitting in parks or picnicking, whilst 1) still maintaining strict social distancing measures and 2) not gathering in groups of 6 or more people (unless from the same household).

Cafés

We advise the following steps be taken to ensure that park cafés can re-open (a takeaway service) and operate safely:

1. Cafés should provide a revised risk assessment (RA), to demonstrate that they can:
 - a. provide a safe and protected working environment for staff, which enables social distancing;
 - b. provide a food safe and hygienic environment, in the light Covid-19;
 - c. it may be useful for cafés to refer to guidance for food businesses, developed by the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health and the government, links given below;
 - d. ensure that customers can be served safely when ordering, paying and collecting items.
2. The RA should be reviewed by the Environmental Health Department (EHD), any decisions to allow a park café to reopen should be supported by the EHD.
3. If a café can re-open safely, a queuing system should be put in place to enable social distancing – such as clear markings showing where to queue and the distance from others to be maintained.
4. Ensure that queues are directed away from seating areas, if applicable.
5. Ensure only one person, from a household is in the queue to place and collect an order.
6. Where a takeaway serving-hatch is not in place, ensure that only an appropriate number of people are allowed in the café at one time, to maintain social distancing.
7. Customers should avoid queuing near the café entrance if it is also the exit point, ensure there are appropriate markings in place.
8. Cafés may want to consider putting in a serving hatch; Lordship Hub Co-op has set up a crowd funding appeal for one – you can read more [here](#). It may be advisable to take payment by card and phone-based systems only.
9. Have clear signage covering:
 - a. Social distancing
 - b. Customers should leave the café area after collecting their order, unless there is a designated seating area
 - c. Do not gather in groups of more than 6*, maintaining a distance of 2m from those not from the same household [*unless from the same household]
 - d. Seating areas (if applicable) are not sanitised – avoid touching surfaces and wash your hands when you get home (seating should be spaced out to ensure social distancing).
 - e. Ask customers to return used items and litter to clearly signed designated areas.

Ice cream van concessions

Ice cream van concessions selling their products from a fixed site (operating under a Council licence), are considered 'a takeaway' and therefore, not subject to the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) Regulations 2020 [as are non-static ice cream vendors]. The following measures should be considered, for an ice cream van vendor to reopen and operate safely:

1. The ice cream van should be fitted with a screen to protect vendor and customers
2. Introduce appropriate additional hygiene measures such as frequently wiping down surfaces and screen with an anti- bacterial solution
3. The vendor should operate alone, or can do so with a member of the same household
4. Social distancing measures must be implemented – see points 3 to 5 above
5. Take card payments only
6. Have clear signage –see point 9 above
7. The Council may revoke the licence if social distancing measures are not adhered to under the terms of the licence, which may include that the vendor *not cause a nuisance or contravene any legislation*.
8. It is essential that the Council seek legal advice before allowing a concession to re-open.

Useful Links:

[Food delivery and takeaway guidance – by the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health Government Guidance for Food Businesses \(Covid-19\)](#)