

Safety Advisory Group

Public Health Risks Advisory Note

Summary

This document provides collated advice and guidance on public health risks for the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Safety Advisory Groups. Event organisers may wish to reference this document when preparing the Event Management Plan. Event organisers may want further advice from the SAG, this should be requested from the SAG chair. Not all risks will be relevant to each event. Where risks are identified, ensure these are addressed as part of the risk assessment:

- Substance misuse (drugs & alcohol) & Sexual health
- Severe weather
- Infectious disease
- Environmental

SUBSTANCE MISUSE (DRUGS & ALCOHOL) & SEXUAL HEALTH

For festivals/events (depending on size of event, duration, age group) please consider the following:

- Security/police presence, ensure enough security/support in camping area throughout duration.
- Bag checks / amnesty bins on arrival.
- Restriction of alcohol brought onto site.
- Drug and alcohol training for staff including training on spiking.
- Incident reporting mechanisms for onsite teams.
- Chill out spaces (Peer-based support)
- Free water provision (adequate provision of free water stations)
- Heat/shade/cooling measures
- Harm reduction messaging (sent out before the event to ticket holders) as well as onsite messaging (free messaging, texts, videos, social networks) to include drug and alcohol as well as personal safety information.
- Drug testing on site.
- Sexual health prevention services offering STI testing, condoms (provision of emergency contraception/morning after pill)

For further information, contact the SAG chair who will put you in touch with the CCC/PCC Public Health Drugs, Alcohol and Sexual Health Team.

SEVERE WEATHER

Cold weather

Consider the following to stay safe in the cold weather:

- Check the [cold weather alert system](#) for warnings and advice over the winter.

- Take the weather into account when planning your activities.
- Maintain indoor room temperatures at 18 °C.
- Encourage attendees to dress warmly, eat warm food and take warm drinks regularly.
- Clear pavements of ice or snow to avoid trips and falls.

Further information: [Cold weather plan for England - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/cold-weather-plan-for-england)

Hot weather

For events in hot weather, consider:

- The [heat health alert system](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/heat-health-alert-system) for warnings and advice over the summer
- Sharing advice with participants: [Beat the Heat \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/644247/beat-the-heat-staying-safe-in-hot-weather.pdf)
[Beat the heat: staying safe in hot weather - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/beat-the-heat-staying-safe-in-hot-weather)
- Look out for those who may struggle to keep themselves cool and hydrated – older people, those with underlying conditions.
- Keep indoors cool for example by closing curtains on rooms that face the sun – and remember that it may be cooler outdoors than indoors.
- Check that fridges, freezers and fans are working properly.
- Free water provision (adequate provision of free water stations)

Further information: [Heatwave Plan for England - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/heatwave-plan-for-england)

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Seasonal illness or local outbreaks of infectious disease/s may pose a risk and the following should be considered when planning your event.

- Advise staff and customers to stay at home if feeling unwell.
- Support staff in keeping up to date with immunisations and taking up vaccine/boosters offers if/when they become eligible.
- Enable good hand hygiene through provision of sufficient hand washing facilities.
- Continue frequent cleaning of high hand-touch surfaces at the venue including communal areas and any shared equipment such as microphones.
- Assess the level of ventilation in indoor spaces, per the HSE guidance, and include that in your risk assessment, and increase the level of ventilation if required.

Further information: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): guidance and support - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-and-support) . Note: There are currently no Coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions in the UK.

[People with symptoms of a respiratory infection including COVID-19 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/people-with-symptoms-of-a-respiratory-infection-including-covid-19).

If you have questions or concerns on specific infectious disease risks, contact the SAG chair who will put you in touch with the CCC/PCC Health Protection Team.

Avian Influenza

Consider the following for events involving bird displays or where wild birds may be present:

- Always wash your hands with soap and water after handling birds
- Do not touch or move any dead or sick wild birds. Report dead wild birds by phone: 03459 33 55 77 or [report online](#) if you find:
 - 1 or more dead birds of prey (such as an owl, hawk or buzzard)
 - 3 or more dead birds that include at least 1 gull, swan, goose or duck
 - 5 or more dead birds of any species

Further information: [Report dead wild birds - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Tick Awareness

Ticks can carry disease, such as Lyme disease and tick-borne encephalitis. The risk of tick-borne encephalitis is very low. When events are held outdoors such as woodlands and moorlands, consider communicating tick advice on ticket sales or the event website:

- Avoid brushing against vegetation.
- Check clothes and body regularly for ticks.
- Use insect repellent.
- Remove ticks as soon as possible using a pair of fine-tipped tweezers or a tick removal tool. Clean the bite area with antibacterial wash/soap and water and monitor it for several weeks for any changes.
- Contact your GP promptly if you begin to feel unwell with flu-like symptoms or develop a spreading circular red rash.

Further information: [‘Be tick aware’ toolkit \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

ENVIRONMENTAL RISK

Consider risk of water-borne illness:

- Check water quality information relevant to your location and event
- Choose the location carefully and avoid hosting water-based events in water with blue-green algal blooms or scums in freshwaters.
- Provide hand washing / shower facilities for participants.
- Communicating advice for water-based activities on ticket sales or the event website to participants:
 - Cover cuts, scratches or sores with a waterproof plaster before swimming.
 - Wear appropriate protective clothing such as a wetsuit, gloves, swim goggles or protective footwear.

- Minimise swallowing of water.
- Clean your hands thoroughly with soap and water before eating or handling food and clean cuts or abrasions using soap and water
- Shower soon after swimming.
- Handle your wetsuit with care after use. Rinse it with clean water as soon as is practicable after swimming. Clean with detergent and rinse as advised by the manufacturer. Always wash your hands with soap and water after handling or cleaning your wetsuit. Allow the suit to dry thoroughly before reuse.

Further information: [Swim healthy - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/swim-healthy)

Cambridgeshire County Council &
Peterborough City Council
Public Health