



Risk Assessment

Reference: RA007460/2

Sign-off Status: Approved

1. Hosting 'COVID Secure' Groups SEPT 2021

Description of Activity:

This risk assessment activity is to support the hosting of Groups Visits during viral pandemic whether as Sole Use or alongside other hostel users.

MEALS

The hostel has the following rooms suitable for Groups dining Restaurant dining space seating 48. Outside seating area seating 36

The hostel will accommodate Groups meals by:

Allocating each Group a dedicated dining area for their sole use at agreed meal times.

SOCIAL SPACES

The hostel has the following rooms suitable for use as Groups social spaces FOH seating area. Max capacity 25

Each group will be allocated a dedicated social space for their sole use for the duration of the booking.



Risk Assessment

Hazard 1. Close contact with a person infected with Coronavirus

Any time spent in close contact with another person increases the risk of transmission of the virus. (Not everyone infected with coronavirus displays obvious symptoms).

Uncontrolled Risk:
High

Our interactions could allow transmission of the virus by being too close to other people, by touching contaminated objects or surfaces then touching our face.

People infected with coronavirus come to use YHA facilities and symptoms are not noticed (or they are asymptomatic) before accessing the building.

Venue entertainment or customer behavior could lead to activities such as shouting, singing which can increase rate and spread of virus transmission.

All increasing risk of transmission to other occupiers the dining space such as YHA staff, visitors, guests, or other customers.

Existing Control Measures

Groups meal service will be delivered in accordance with OHS36a/b.

Group leaders to manage and supervise meal times to ensure adherence to the groups social distancing requirements within OHS36a/b.

YHA Request clarification from group leaders in advance to understand how tables are to be arranged for groups needs and if this requires more than one sitting. Group leaders to advise whether group will be split into smaller groups with staggered dining times or whether they will dine as one large group.

Where possible Groups should be given exclusive use of dining space and if hosting more than one Group ensure their sittings do not overlap.

If the dining area is used by others whilst a Group is served guidance within OHS36a/b will be followed to help prevent close contact with the Group.

Groups dining areas to be cleaned before and after each Group sitting.

Check in and check out of Groups will be in accordance with OHS36a/b to reduce chance of overcrowding or Groups unnecessarily waiting in circulation spaces.

With Existing Controls:

Low

Likelihood

1 Very unlikely

Severity

2 Minor: injury (less than 3 days lost time)

Further Control Measures

Hazard 2. Shared accommodation and facilities

Facilities within Youth Hostels promote sharing space among those who may not usually live or travel together.

Uncontrolled Risk:
High

Existing Control Measures

Groups in sole use occupancy should be offered every bedroom which meets the Covid secure requirements in OHS36a/b, to enable them to reducing sharing as much as possible.

With Existing Controls:

Low



Risk Assessment

Ventilation in some YHA rooms may be limited from original build design due to the installation of window restriction devices. These devices cannot be removed due to the risk of a fall from height.

Guests staying within the same bedroom are at increased risk of COVID transmission from asymptomatic guests.

In private spaces (Bedrooms) YHA will not be undertaking hygiene controls during the stay, such as contact point cleaning.

Reducing bedroom occupancy would not be economically viable for the charity.

Signage should be placed on bedroom windows with wording as follows ; For Ventilation purposes please ensure this window is left open at all times.

Group leaders should be sent a copy of this Risk Assessment by the hostel manager or their team and encouraged to discuss the risk of sharing bedrooms with all members of their group.

To reduce the risk of asymptomatic COVID spread the group leader should consider controls to reduce the risk of spread in bedrooms, such as setting a vaccination requirement, providing evidence of testing or restricting sharing to those already in close contact with other members of the group.

YHA do not request or require the details of the groups own assessment.

YHA will undertake a ventilation survey program on communal areas of the hostel network where aerosol build up can potentially lead to transmission among guests who would not otherwise come into contact with one another (Social areas where people dwell), potentially bypassing the effectiveness of YHA existing controls.

Areas of focus and exact program will be set out by Buildings and Development team and overseen by YHA Exec Director of Property and Risk.

YHA to undertake works to bedroom windows in network to increase natural ventilation wherever reasonably practicable. Due to varying nature these will be dependent on each bedroom and will be managed by YHA Regional Building Surveyors but will not create any fall from height risk by leaving a gap beyond 10cm.

YHA will not allow over population of bedrooms through the use of truckle beds or other additional measures such as placing mattresses on floor space.

Likelihood

2 Unlikely (< 50:50)

Severity

2 Minor: injury (less than 3 days lost time)

Further Control Measures



Risk Assessment

Hazard 3. Group Members mixing with those outside their own household

Members of groups are less likely to be socially distancing from others in their group, may include unvaccinated people and present an increased risk of transmission among the group.

Whilst the health impacts if infected are generally reduced in young people they are still likely to transmit covid to those they interact with. Therefore interactions outside of the group should be reduced wherever possible including YHA employees and other users.

Uncontrolled Risk:

Very High

Existing Control Measures

YHA Employees are to continue to social distance from all group participants unless absolutely necessary, e.g. medical emergency.

Requests to socially distance should be relayed to leaders or group support staff to manage.

Where multiple groups, or groups and other users, are on site at the same time the group leaders should be requested to manage their group participants to reduce mixing with other users.

Staff are advised to wear mask at all time during group stays.

Bar service will be table service only or takeaway.

With Existing Controls:

Low

Likelihood

2 Unlikely (< 50:50)

Severity

1 Minor: first aid injury, minor damage

Further Control Measures