

Briefing Note for Warm Welcome Spaces – Preventing outbreaks of Covid-19, flu and other airborne diseases such as norovirus and common cold.

Warm space providers have a legal duty to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of those using the space. Covid and other airborne diseases are easily spread if precautions are not in place. We now know that the vast majority of Covid cases are transmitted through the air. Very few by touching surfaces.

There are several lines of defence.

- Ask people NOT to come to the Warm Space if they have Covid, cold or flu symptoms, or if they have had diarrhoea and/or vomiting in the last 48 hours.
- If people have tested positive for Covid they should stay at home! Remember, people with Covid are infectious for around 2 days before they show symptoms, and not all do so! The most common early symptom now is sore throat.
- Maintain good hygiene standards with good provision for handwashing (no shared towels please!) and clean frequent touch points such as door and fridge handles.

Fresh Air is your Friend!

Make sure you have fresh air ventilating the room, either continuously or by opening windows for a few minutes every hour.

- Use a carbon dioxide meter to check air quality (from £20).
- Normal reading in an empty room is around 420ppm.
- <800 ppm = "SAFE"
- 800-1500ppm – increasing risk
- >1500 ppm = "UNSAFE"

Activities that produce a lot of virus particles include singing and loud voices. Try and keep below 800ppm if you have these riskier activities taking place.



Face masks and coverings

Protect the wearer and others in the room who may be more vulnerable to infection.

We suggest having surgical masks available on request.

FFP2 masks give higher level of protection than surgical masks and face coverings and most people find more comfortable and clearer for speaking.

Especially for crowded and/or poorly ventilated spaces.



Air Cleaning

If you find CO2 readings are frequently going above 1000ppm and you are having to ventilate the room a lot to keep the air fresh and readings below 1000ppm, then you should consider using one or more HEPA filter air purifiers.

These filter out bacteria and viruses including Covid-19.



The cost of buying and running air purifiers is likely to be cheaper than the extra heating costs incurred through continuous and/or frequent significant ventilation.

Cost from £50 but check capacity against room size. May need more than one. Several small ones better than one big one.