

COVID-19 REGULATIONS & ADVICE

The FU3A Committee's prime concern at this time is to ensure that specific arrangements are in place so that members can take part in Group meetings safely. We hope that this note will reassure you that this work is already underway.

Our position will be updated if circumstances require, and we will tell you about any changes to our programme which result.

We will continue to ensure that we conform to Government COVID-19 regulations and advice, as well as the requirements of our insurers at the Third Age Trust.

The latest update from the Trust confirms that most U3A activities could not yet take place: but with more than two months to go before the start of our term it seems reasonable to continue to plan in the hope that Government regulations will be relaxed further by then.

SOCIAL DISTANCING & SAFE MAXIMUM NUMBERS

We are re-evaluating our risk assessment for each venue in the light of current requirements for Social Distancing. This is being done to professional RICS-approved standards using CAD equipment. As a result we are confident that our consideration of the Government guidelines will be as thorough as we can possibly make it. Safe Maximum Numbers will be identified for each venue, and these will form the basis of our normal 'allocation of applicants to Groups' process in July.

We will ask Group Leaders not to exceed the Safe Maximum Number for their group. We will also inform them about the 'circulation flow' requirements for their venue, and ask them to ensure that Group members know what these are and that they observe them.

For Groups meeting at home, we will ask Leaders to carry out their own risk assessment, identifying the Safe Maximum Number for their Group. Groups will not be permitted to meet until we receive this information.

HAND SANITISER

We will ask FU3A members to carry their own personal supply of hand sanitiser. To supplement this we will provide every Group Leader with an initial supply for their Group, paid for from FU3A funds.

FACE MASKS

We will expect all members to provide their own face mask and wear it when they enter and leave a Group venue, but we will leave individual members to decide whether to wear their mask during the Group meeting itself.

SURFACE CLEANING

We will work with those responsible for the management of venues to continue to ensure that they keep venues clean: and that in the context of COVID-19, cleaning materials are provided to enable surface cleaning to take place for door handles, tables, etc. We will ask Group Leaders to ensure that this happens before the start of each Group meeting (and at the end of it if circumstances require, eg with sports equipment): we envisage that they will ask members to help with this on a rota basis. We will ask Leaders of Groups meeting at home to follow the same procedure, and to confirm that they have the necessary materials for surface cleaning etc.

REFRESHMENTS

Teas/Coffees should only be provided at a meeting of a Group if it is absolutely clear that this can be done without compromising Social Distancing and health requirements.

START OF GROUPS

We are planning to arrange for a Committee Member to be present at the start of the first meeting of each Group to answer any queries members may have.

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY

Every individual member is ultimately responsible for their own safety, and for ensuring that the safety of others is not compromised.

As has been expected throughout the lockdown, if any member appears to present Covid-19 symptoms they must inform the Membership Secretary (ferndownu3a@googlemail.com) at once, and self-isolate.

Every member obviously has the right to withdraw from a Group at any time if they are anxious about the arrangements put in place for that Group. As one member put it this week: *'I think we are all just going to have to get on with life, and then it will come down to the level of risk each individual is prepared to accept given their circumstances'*.

Your Committee