

## Coronavirus COVID-19 – Angling update



Date: 5 January 2021

### 1. Introduction

Following the First Minister's announcement on 4<sup>th</sup> January, below is a link to the latest Coronavirus (COVID-19) stay at home guidance.

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/>

### 2. Key parts of the guidance are:

*To minimise the risk of spreading the virus, you must stay at home as much as possible. By law, in a level 4 area, you can only leave your home (or garden) for an essential purpose. Although you can leave home for these purposes, you should stay as close to home as possible. Travel no further than you need to reach to a safe, non-crowded place to exercise in a socially distanced way. To minimise the risk of spread of Coronavirus it is crucial that we all avoid unnecessary travel.*

Some examples are provided in the guidance, and these include:

- *for work or an activity associated with seeking employment, or to provide voluntary or charitable services, but only where that cannot be done from your home.*
- *local outdoor recreation, sport or exercise, walking, cycling, golf, or running that starts and finishes at the same place (which can be up to 5 miles from the boundary of your local authority area) as long as you abide by the rules on meeting other households.*

*You can only meet people from another household outdoors for certain reasons, such as for work, to join your extended household, for sport, exercise, social interaction or to provide care and support for a vulnerable person.*

*A maximum of 2 people from 2 separate households can meet outdoors for sport or exercise. Children under the age of 12 from these households do not count towards this number.*

*The members of an individual household or extended household can meet outdoors for sport or exercise.*

*You can travel for local outdoor sport or exercise such as meeting another person, walking, cycling, golf or running that starts and finishes at the same place (which can be up to 5 miles from the boundary of your local authority area), as long as you abide by the rules on meeting other households.*

*Outdoor non-contact sports such as golf and tennis are permitted for all age groups provided this is within a single household group, or the group contains no more than 2 people from 2 different households. Children under the age of 12 from these households do not count towards this number.*

### 3. Angling

On 5 January, Marine Scotland published official advice in relation to angling activity on their [blog](#). This has also been reproduced below:

#### **Marine Scotland - Guidance for anglers during Coronavirus**

The First Minister has announced [further action to stem the spread of Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#).

*Following the announcement the Scottish Government introduced, from midnight on 5 January, and for the duration of January, a legal requirement to stay at home except for essential purposes. This is similar to the lockdown of March 2020.*

*The First Minister acknowledged that it is important for physical and mental well-being that we can get outdoors for fresh air and exercise as much as possible. Given this, local outdoor recreation, sport or exercise is to be considered an appropriate reason for leaving home. Unlike the lockdown last year, the frequency of outdoor exercise is not being limited. Outdoor non-contact activities such as walking, cycling and golf are permitted for all age groups.*

**Angling is also permissible** provided this is within a single household group, or the group contains no more than 2 people from 2 different households. Children under the age of 12 from these households do not count towards this number.

*You can travel for local outdoor sport or exercise such as angling but must stay within the more general requirements with regard to travel and ensure that you abide by the rules on meeting other households. In general, stay as close to home as possible – within your local authority, or no more than 5 miles from the boundary – and stay away from crowded places. Individuals should continue to follow the five principles behind the [Scottish Government's FACTS campaign](#):*

- *F – wear a Face covering*
- *A – Avoid crowded places*
- *C – Clean hands and surfaces regularly*
- *T – stay Two metre distance away from other people*
- *S – Self-isolate and book a test if you have COVID-19 symptoms (new continuous cough, fever or loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste)*

*Detailed guidance on safe conduct while angling is available on the [Angling Scotland](#) website and from [Fisheries Management Scotland](#).*

#### **Club competitions, outings etc**

*Angling activity should be restricted to individuals, household groups or no more than 2 people from 2 households, suitably distanced. Gatherings for fishing competitions, club outings or group meetings, etc are not permitted under the current restrictions.*

#### **Sea angling**

*Sea angling from the shore is allowed, provided that anglers comply with the more general requirements with regard to travel and the rules on meeting other households.*

*Sea angling from private boats with members of your own household is also allowed.*

*Again, sea angling should be practised as close to home as possible and no more than 5 miles beyond your local authority boundary.*

*Angling from charter boats is not currently permitted.*

#### **Travelling from other parts of the UK to fish in Scotland**

*This is not allowed under current rules in Scotland. In addition, all holiday accommodation is closed to tourism. Hotels, B&Bs and self-catering can remain open for essential customers only. Our previous guidance can be viewed on our [COVID-19 webpage](#). This will be reviewed in the coming days, and we will provide further guidance as it becomes available.*