

Businesses open during the Coronavirus:

Three measures that must be taken

The owners, proprietors and managers of businesses permitted to remain open during the coronavirus emergency period must ensure that they take measures to ensure that a distance of two metres is maintained between any persons on their premises*.

There are three basic requirements.

1. All reasonable measures must be taken to ensure that a distance of two metres is maintained between any persons on the business premises*.

Reasonable measures include marking distances on the floor where people are likely to queue, introducing one-way systems along aisles narrower than two metres, and displaying prominent signs asking people to remain patient and respect the two metre rule.

2. All reasonable measures must be taken to ensure that persons are only admitted to the business premises in sufficiently small numbers to make it possible to maintain the two metre distance*.

Reasonable measures include working out the maximum number of people that your premises may safely accommodate while still respecting the two metre rule, and then displaying a sign prominently at the entrance giving the maximum number of people allowed on the premises at one time. If the number of people on your premises is not visible from outside, operate a 'one out, one in' policy and display a sign at the entrance asking customers to wait until invited in. If your premises are too small to safely meet the two metre rule, display signs asking customers to wait outside and to be served at the door.

3. All reasonable measures must be taken to ensure that a distance of two metres is maintained between persons waiting to enter the business premises*.

Reasonable measures include giving clear signage visible from outside the premises asking customers to wait in turn, marking waiting lines to ensure that entrances and exits are clear by two metres, and marking queuing distances of two metres. Agree queuing directions with any neighbouring shops that are permitted to remain open. Consider using non-permanent markings on pavements such as chalk rather than other means that might present a trip hazard.

These requirements are made under regulation 6(1) of the Health Protection (Coronavirus Restriction) (Wales) Regulations 2020. A person who, without reasonable excuse, contravenes the requirements of regulation 6(1) commits an offence, punishable on summary conviction by a fine.

*Two metres distance is not required to be maintained between two members of the same household, or a carer and the person assisted by the carer.

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Pembrokeshire County Council

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