

Indoor and Outdoor Play Areas

Dear business owner,

Below for your information and safe operation are links to the latest government and industry guidance on the reopening and operation of play areas. These are available at:

<https://www.balppa.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Indoor-Play-Areas-for-Children-Operational-Guidance-for-Soft-Play-Equipment.pdf>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-managing-playgrounds-and-outdoor-gyms/covid-19-guidance-for-managing-playgrounds-and-outdoor-gyms>

These guidance notes cover both indoor soft play areas and outdoor facilities. They stress the importance of assessing and managing risks prior to reopening, and ensuring the safety of both staff and customers. All owners and operators have a legal duty to protect the health and safety of all who work within or use their facilities and it should be noted that all regulations in force prior to the Covid-19 pandemic continue to apply.

The guidance also covers the need to maintain social distancing wherever possible, and ensure that suitable signage and other guidance is in place to keep all customers and staff informed of operating practices. The guidance also outlines the need to be aware of risks, for increased cleanliness of equipment (especially on high contact surfaces) as well as requirements around which items should be removed from ball pools etc. prior to the re-admission of customers. Recommended approaches for the management of food and drink consumption by customers and litter disposal are also covered.

The importance of having all of your staff fully trained in new operating and cleansing procedures, and available to provide advice and guidance to customers, is also stressed by the guidance. You should be aware of the need to put in place procedures to manage movement within your premises, including managing social distancing in terms of customers entering and exiting your premises as well as the use of face coverings.

The opening up of the economy and businesses following the COVID-19 outbreak is being supported by NHS Test and Trace. For indoor premises you should assist this service by keeping a temporary record of your customers and visitors for 21 days, in a way that is manageable for your business, and assist NHS Test and Trace with requests for that data if needed. This could help contain clusters or outbreaks.

Wider information around safe reopening and operation of businesses in the Wakefield district and support opportunities for businesses is available on the Wakefield First website (the business support agency for local businesses) at <https://www.wakefieldfirst.com/covid-19/> and wider information can be found via the Wakefield Council website at <https://www.wakefield.gov.uk/business/coronavirus-%E2%80%93-help-for-businesses>