

Statement from Mountaineering Ireland & Mountain Training Board Ireland to voluntary and commercial leaders of Hillwalking and climbing in Ireland

The Irish government has issued new guidance on lockdown restrictions to move from the current Level 5 with a 5km radius of travel for essential reasons including exercise, o changes on the restrictions on 12th & 26th April. Link to the latest government guidance.

<https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/c36c85-covid-19-coronavirus/>

Please see the table below.

Republic of Ireland	
	Current Restrictions
Travel	Exercise within 5km of home
Hillwalking & rock-climbing	Only individual or household permitted (within 5km of home)
Club activity outdoors	No
Climbing walls	Closed
	From 12th April
Travel	Exercise within your county or within 20km of your home if crossing county boundaries.
Hillwalking & rock-climbing	Can take place between a maximum of two households.
Club activity outdoors	No
Climbing walls	Closed
	From 26th April
Travel	Exercise within your county or within 20km of your home if crossing county boundaries.
Hillwalking & rock-climbing	Adults: Can take place between a maximum of two households. Underage; Can take place an organised club activity in pods of 15.
Club activity outdoors	Adults: No Underage: In pods of 15
Climbing walls	Closed

From 12th April

- *The county travel and 20km radius of home travel restrictions,*
- *Can take place between a maximum of two households.*
- *Maintain appropriate hygiene measures both personal and for equipment rigorously in line with wider guidance on hygiene, for example by using antiviral spray and washing hands thoroughly before and after use*
- *Maintain physical/social distancing of 2 metres as per government guidance*

Mountaineering Ireland & Mountain Training Board Ireland has considered the guidance above and believe it may be possible for volunteer & commercial leaders to engage in **limited** led activity in Ireland subject to appropriate control measures, **in county travel and 20km radius of home travel restrictions, of a maximum of two households.**

At all times, you should continue to adhere to strict social distancing guidelines when you are outside your home, particularly ensuring you are two metres away from anyone outside your household.

Activities do not lend themselves to involve overnight stays (including camping) or the use of indoor venues for briefings or debriefs. Climbing walls or facilities remain closed.

To make any decision on whether to go ahead with an activity, please consider the usual factors and include those additional factors brought about by Covid – 19 including government guidance, parking, mountain rescue service capacity. Our [guidance on safe practice in the outdoors](#) issued to Mountain Training Association members may also prove useful. Leaders are responsible for the safety of staff, and group and will need to have satisfied their own risk assessment about Covid-19 as well as having appropriate insurance cover in place.

Although MI & MTBI appreciates that leaders have a genuine need to return to work and will be keen to get back to leading a cautious approach will be necessary to both limit the spread of infection and respect local sentiment. As such providers in Ireland should take note of local information and advice from organisations such as their own membership organisations (AMI, BAIML, BMG and MTA), Mountaineering Councils (MI, the BMC, MS), National Parks & Wildlife Services, National Park Authorities, Mountain Rescue Teams and local Tourist Boards. Leaders must consider the reputation of our sector and act accordingly.

It is important that our network of leaders maintains the quality of what we do. We are presently considering how we can further support leaders in these challenging times and welcome dialogue.

I have created an email group of service providers and award holders. If you wish to be added to this email list, please confirm by return.

Finally, please note once again that this currently only affects leaders in Ireland. As the situation develops in other countries, we will issue further coordinated updates. The guidance for Ireland may change in line with the Government's advice and may need to be reversed if required. Please contact Jane Carney to discuss further as required.

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