

Updated: 28/05/2021

The Irish government has issued new guidance on lockdown restrictions to move to permit inter county travel. [Link to the latest government guidance.](#)

From 10th May

- Inter county travel has resumed.
- Outdoor training of a maximum of 15 people
- 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 is possible for leaders and instructors to engage in limited activity in Ireland subject to appropriate control measures, inter county travel and groups of up to 15 for outdoor training. 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.

From 2nd June (subject to the public health situation at the time)

Accommodation services (Hotels, B&B, self-catering and hostels can reopen)

From 7th June (subject to the public health situation at the time)

Climbing walls can open for individual training only. Group indoor training to be reviewed at the end of June.

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 and instructors 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 and instructors 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 leaders and instructors 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 and instructors must consider the reputation of our sector and act accordingly.

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

Finally, please note once again that this currently only affects leaders and instructors

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.

Useful links:

<https://www.mountaineering.ie/covid19/>

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

Mountaineering Ireland Good Practice Guide