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Hello Shedders and Makerspacers

We are pleased to announce that Men in Sheds Milton Keynes will be re-opening at **9.00 on Monday 13 July**, This follows a risk assessment and putting in place a wide range of Covid-19 safety measures. These are based on professional advice together with guidance from the UK Men's Sheds Association, and input from members of the Management Committee and a small number of other Shedders and Makerspacers. The new measures are set out below.

In order to complete our preparations for re-opening we need to get some idea of how many members (Shedders and Makerspacers) plan to attend the Shed in this first phase. For this reason we have created a **survey that will be sent to your inbox very shortly**. It would be very helpful if you would complete it. If numbers wishing to attend at any time exceed the designated capacity we will have to consider rationing attendance. Please do not just turn up at the Shed.

Although we will take every precaution to ensure the Shed is Covid safe we emphasise that **members who are over 70 or who have health conditions that make them vulnerable are strongly advised not attend the Shed** until infection rates are lower than at present. We hope this will not be too long in the future.

The new rules and procedures we have introduced at the Shed are set out below. They are provisional and are subject to revision when we see how they work in practice or if Government guidance changes. Signage will be in place to reinforce them:

1. It goes without saying that you should not visit the Shed if you have any symptoms of illness or if you have been in recent contact with anyone who has tested positive for Covid-19.
2. On entering the Shed please **sanitise your hands at the hands-free dispenser above the signing in book** before signing in. When you sign in you must also sign a Risk Assessment document to confirm that you have read and understood these new safety measures.
3. **Put on a face mask**. If you do not have one of your own there is a supply of disposable ones in a box by the door. Disposable gloves are also available here if you wish to wear them. We also plan to provide transparent face shields for those who prefer them to masks.

the Shed other than the toilets is therefore now via the staircase off the lobby. The kitchen and downstairs social area are currently closed except for a maximum of two people wishing to use the computers.

5. **All food and drink must be brought onto the premises daily for individual consumption only.** You must also bring your own drinking vessels, crockery and cutlery and remove them when you leave.
6. **A new social space (which will continue to operate as the Makerspace in the evenings) has been created on the upper floor.** To preserve 2 metres social distancing this can now accommodate a maximum of **twelve people** seated at the tables. Some tables have been marked with hazard tape to indicate that they should not be used and surplus chairs have been removed. This layout is experimental and it might be possible to arrange things in a different way without compromising safety. 1-1.5 meters distancing is permissible if it is unavoidable, people are not facing each other and masks are worn. There might also be opportunities to sit outside in the loading bay when the weather permits.
7. Numbers in the workshop will be restricted to **six**, with no more than one person per bench at any time. Similar rules will apply in the modelling area, with a limit of **four** people.
8. To access the workshop or toilets or to leave the Shed descend via the metal staircase. Anyone needing to use the stairlift is exempted from the one-way rule.
9. When using the toilets, after washing your hands with soap and water and drying your hands with a paper towel, use it to turn off the tap and flush the toilet before disposing of it in the bin. The light should be left on and the door open.
10. When leaving the Shed please remember to sign out and sanitise your hands. In addition to the one in the lobby hands-free sanitiser dispensers have been installed in the model-making area, on the upper floor and in the workshop at the foot of the stairs.
11. A stricter cleaning and disinfecting regime will need to be introduced at the end of every session. All Sheddors are asked to assist with this unless they have mobility problems. Workshop users will be separately briefed on procedures for machine and hand tool disinfection.
12. Finally, remember: we are all responsible for our own safety and that of others. We cannot and will not be constantly policing compliance with the new rules. So - in the words of the Government - **use your common sense and BE ALERT!**

We appreciate that these new procedures will be inconvenient for everyone and perhaps irksome for some but we hope they will not prove too much of a deterrent and that we can look forward to welcoming you back to the Shed soon. If you have any questions or concerns please let us know by email to info@meninshedsmk.org.uk.

Nigel Pigott

Secretary, Men in Sheds MK, on behalf of the Management Committee and Trustees

P.S. [Shedfest 2020](#) goes live on the internet from 15.00 today and tomorrow. It is expected that a recording of the event will be made available subsequently.



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info@meninshedsmk.org.uk

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