

This is an **initial summary** of what the [national lockdown](#) means for volunteering in England from Jarina Choudhury, Volunteering Development Consultant, NCVO.

### **Volunteering from home/outside the home:**

People must volunteer from home, unless it is not reasonably possible for them to do so.

- If they cannot volunteer from home, people can volunteer outside their home, provided they do not need to [self-isolate](#) for any reason, and follow [social distancing guidance](#), or [COVID-secure guidance](#) if volunteering in a workplace.
- This also applies to [clinically vulnerable people](#)

### **[Clinically extremely vulnerable people](#)**

- Clinically extremely vulnerable people should be supported to volunteer from home and should not volunteer outside their home.

### **Travelling to volunteer or while volunteering:**

Where they are unable to volunteer from home, people can travel to volunteer or while volunteering in England. While travelling, they should

- where possible, stay local (avoiding travelling outside of their village, town or the part of a city where they live) unless absolutely necessary
- walk or cycle if they can (where that is not possible, use public transport or drive)
- plan ahead and avoid the busiest routes, as well as busy times.
- follow the [safer travel guidance](#)

### **Volunteering in groups:**

- While volunteering, people can meet in groups of any size, indoors or outdoors.
- Formal support groups are exempt from gathering restrictions up to a limit of 15 participants (aged 5 and older), however there is no limit on the number of volunteers. For example, 10 volunteers could support a group of 15 participants.

### **Volunteers in critical roles who can access schools or educational settings:**

- Volunteers classified as being in [critical worker roles](#) are allowed to send their children to school or other educational settings.

### **Accommodation:**

- Accommodation such as hotels, B&Bs, campsites, holiday lets and guest houses, which are otherwise ordered to close, are permitted to open for people who need to stay for volunteering purposes.

### **Next steps**

[GOV.UK](#) guidance on how volunteering can be done safely and effectively will soon be updated in line with the national lockdown restrictions. This includes guidance for [‘formal’](#) and [‘informal’](#) volunteers, and for [volunteer-involving organisations and groups](#).