

COVID-19 – Further guidance for BCA award holders

January 2021

New government restrictions across all four of our home nations have necessitated QMC to review advice to award holders, once again, with regard to work. The overriding message from the government is to 'stay at home' and although work is still cited as a reason for travel, most education and training is confined to an online format; the most recent [national lockdown guidance for schools](#) advises against educational visits at this time.

Thus, after consultation with other National Governing Bodies, we feel that until restrictions are eased, led cave/mine activities do not fall within the parameters of the current exemption clauses. It is likely that this present lockdown will be eased at differing dates in the various home nations; up to date information can be monitored by accessing their websites.

It remains essential for us to follow specific home nation restrictions and legislation.

England <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Wales <https://www.gov.wales/coronavirus>

Scotland <https://www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Northern Ireland <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/campaigns/coronavirus-covid-19>

We acknowledge the ongoing burden which this pandemic is placing on those working in the outdoors, but feel that we must continue to be sensitive to local communities and that, as BCA award holders, our actions must remain both responsible and professional. 1:1 coaching in some areas may be possible; Sport England have included this in their guidance <https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/coronavirus/return-play/frequently-asked-questions-national-lockdown-restrictions>

LCMLA and CIC training, assessment and update courses:

This advice impacts on scheduled LCMLA and CIC training and assessment courses. We suggest award holders contact trainer/assessors directly to get an update on whether scheduled courses have been postponed. Please note that although it is not feasible to conduct training or assessment remotely, both **CIC and LCMLA update courses** continue to be run through on-line platforms.

Access to caves in different areas has also been impacted by the latest restrictions.
For latest access information consult:

CNCC – <https://cncc.org.uk/>

CCC – <http://www.cambriancavingcouncil.org.uk/>

DCA – <https://thedca.org.uk/>

CSCC – <http://csccl.org.uk/>

DCUC – <https://dcuc.org.uk/>

SUI – <https://www.caving.ie/>

Although this latest development is a disappointing set back, it is hoped that the new guidance, together with the roll out of the vaccination programme will see restrictions lifted in the not too distant future.

BE RESPONSIBLE - STAY SAFE