

# NEXSTART

This information has been developed by a cross-sector group looking to reduce risk for gambling premises operating during the current pandemic and so ensure the safety of the public, premises staff and officers and provide clarity for all involved.

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## **Gaming Machines and Pool Tables in Pubs in England**

The provision of gaming machines or pool tables are **not** activities that are prohibited in pubs in England by the Coronavirus Regulations.

The Government has issued guidance on “Keeping workers and customers safe during COVID-19 in restaurants, pubs, bars and takeaway services”. The document contains guidance on how to operate premises while minimising the risk of spreading COVID-19.

Each business must consider the guidance to determine the specific actions that need to be taken, depending on the nature of the business, including the size and type of business, how it is organised, operated, managed and regulated.

The guidance will therefore need to be taken into consideration in relation to the provision of gaming machines or pool tables and they will need to be included within the COVID-19 risk assessment for the business. Gaming machines or pool tables should only be provided if the risk assessment establishes that it is safe to do so.

Examples of areas that will need to be considered include:

- social distancing,
- guidance for customers on the use of the facilities,
- provision of player seating (gaming machines),

- cleaning arrangements,
- prevention of crowding, and
- prevention of pinch points.

This is not intended to be an exhaustive list and there may be other considerations depending upon the individual style and characteristics of each venue.

Both the regulations and guidance are subject to change as circumstances require. Details of the updated guidance can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/worksafely>.

It is therefore important that the COVID-19 risk assessment is regularly reviewed and updated as necessary.

*Please note that this document does not constitute legal advice but is the Group's considered opinion of the matters contained within.*

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