



Covid-19 Advice for Hillwalkers

Effective in the Republic of Ireland for Phase 2

This advice aims to help hillwalkers make a safe and responsible return to hillwalking in the presence of Covid-19. It should be considered in addition to your normal good practice. Apply common sense and use your experience and intuition as a hillwalker to make sensible decisions.

Stay safe. Scale back your ambitions, be cautious, choose objectives within your skills and physical limits to minimise the risk of accidents and injury to avoid pressure on the emergency services.

Can I go hillwalking?	Yes - subject to Government restrictions.
Where can I go?	Stay within your county, or 20km from your household if it involves crossing county boundaries.
Who can I go with?	Groups of up to 15 people who are not from the same household can meet outdoors for organised activities such as sporting or other events.

- Follow Government and public health advice.
- Be socially responsible, do what you can to help reduce the transmission of the virus.
- Respect the wishes of landowners and local communities.
- Maintain physical distance from people not living in your household.
- Stay safe - choose low risk walks that suit you and/or the group's ability.
- Participants should keep to the same groups for activities. This will help limit contacts should a member of the group become COVID-19 positive.
- A log should be kept of everyone involved in these activities for contact tracing purposes.

Before Hillwalking

- Choose a route that allows you to stay within your county, or 20km from your household if it involves crossing county boundaries.
- Ensure that your group size is feasible for your intended location and route.
- Prepare and plan your route and check that you can access the trails/hills.
- Stick to low risk routes and try to avoid busy times and popular locations.
- Carry a first aid kit and be prepared to deal with minor incidents during your walk.
- Have a plan of action to maintain social distancing and good hygiene if you must cross stiles, go through gates, or pass others on narrow paths.

Parking

- If possible, walk or cycle to your starting point.
- If possible, check if a car park is open before travelling.
- If on arrival you find the car park is full or closed, have an alternative plan.
- Park in a way that will not obstruct the emergency services (who may need to use forest entrances), local residents accessing their homes, or local farmers who need to enter fields or farmyards.

While Hillwalking

- Walk within your capabilities and in areas and routes that are familiar to you.
- Be vigilant on 2m distance when breathing hard during ascent, passing gates and going through stiles.
- Avoid holding or sharing anyone's poles/ gear throughout the walk.
- Be especially mindful of not gathering around a map, at summits, or for photos.