

Statement from Legion Scotland / Poppy Scotland in respect of Remembrance 2020

Back in March no one thought we'd still be in this position but whether we like it or not, the risks to public health from Coronavirus are real, particularly amongst our older members.

Remembrance must not fall victim to coronavirus but plans at a national and local level must be adapted. Public safety is paramount so please consider the following guidelines when planning your remembrance event. Although we expect some further clarity from the Scottish Government later this week, we felt it important that we provided some guidance as things stand today:

- 1. Parades are not currently permitted. Please do not make plans to include a parade as part of your remembrance event.*
- 2. All outdoor events, including remembrance events, are not currently permitted in the following health board areas - Ayrshire & Arran; Forth Valley; Greater Glasgow & Clyde; Lanarkshire; and Lothian.*
- 3. Outdoor events in the other health board areas are permitted but if they involve more than 6 people from 2 households they can only go ahead if Local Authority approval has been sought and granted. Scottish Government guidelines on outdoor events must be adhered to. This includes having a nominated individual who will be responsible for preparing a risk assessment and overseeing the safe delivery of the event.*
- 4. Our national events will be closed to the public. These are the opening of the Fields of Remembrance in Edinburgh and Glasgow, Remembrance Sunday in Edinburgh and Armistice Day in Princes Street Gardens.*

These rules are in place until the 25th October but given the upward trajectory in coronavirus cases, it is quite possible that they will be extended beyond this date to include the Remembrance period.

Remembrance is of the utmost importance to Legion Scotland members, the Armed Forces Community and the wider Scottish public and although our activities this Remembrance-tide will be very different to previous years, we will still be remembering the fallen in a safe and compliant manner.

We are encouraging the wider public to take a moment at home on their doorstep on Remembrance Sunday and on the 11th of November at 11am for the two minutes silence. You can also pay your personal respects at war memorials at a time of your choosing, but please avoid 11am as per the guidelines above.

We are also acutely aware of the potential catastrophic impact the restrictions could have on this year's Scottish Poppy Appeal so we urge you all to support the Appeal utilising the various new digital methods that Poppyscotland have introduced. You can make a donation via their website, where you can also Donate, Download and Display a poppy at home <https://www.poppyscotland.org.uk>

Although we are devastated we cannot gather in our normal numbers across the country, we can join as a nation in heart and spirit to pay our respects.