



SACS
UK-WIDE SHOOTING
& COUNTRY SPORTS
ADVOCACY

SACS MEMBER NORTHERN IRELAND CORONAVIRUS UPDATE 21 DEC 2020

Northern Ireland Government coronavirus information links:

[NI Government coronavirus information hub](#)

[Information on NI Government restriction levels](#)

Helpful [BBC news page](#).

NI SITUATION FOR SHOOTING & COUNTRY SPORTS BOXING DAY ONWARDS

Due to the recent UK-level concerns about virus mutation and transmission, Northern Ireland will go into a six-week lockdown from the morning of 26 December. A review is planned after four weeks.

From our understanding of the wording, sport shooting or other organised country sports activities will not be permitted during this lockdown. The only sport that is permitted to continue during this period are 'elite' sports, such as professional football.

To be clear, this means that non-work-related purely recreational shooting activities, whether target or quarry based will not be permitted. To be specific, this pauses game shooting, whether driven, walked-up or general rough shooting, as well as wildfowling and deer stalking.

As with previous lockdowns, essential rural, farm and land management work can continue as long as relevant Covid precautions are observed. Depending on your circumstances this may include pest control such as rabbiting, pigeon and crow shooting, fox control and essential deer management, as well as any essential associated activity e.g. check zeroing a .22 rifle after a knock which may create an animal welfare consideration. SACS strongly advises anyone operating under and essential rural work authority to get an appropriate note from the land owner or farmer, especially if you need to travel to the location.

The new regulations will apply from 12.01 am on 26 December 2020 for six weeks. Legislation will be available on the Department of Health website: <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/health-protection-coronavirus-restrictions-no2-regulations-northern-ireland-2020>

Some of the restrictions will be in law, while others will be in guidance. Everyone is legally required to comply with the regulations.