

There are exceptions where people from different households can gather in groups larger than 6 people. These include:

- In a legally permitted support bubble.
- For work, volunteering to provide voluntary or charitable services (see guidance on working safely in other people's homes).
- For registered childcare, education or training.
- To allow contact between birth parents and children in care.
- For arrangements where children do not live in the same household as both their parents or guardians.
- For prospective adopting parents to meet a child or children who may be placed with them.
- For supervised activities provided for children, including wraparound care (before and after school childcare), youth groups and activities, and children's playgroups.
- For birth partners.
- To see someone who is dying.
- To provide emergency assistance, and to avoid injury or illness, or to escape a risk of harm.
- To fulfil a legal obligation, such as attending court or jury service.
- To provide care or assistance to someone vulnerable.
- To facilitate a house move
- For a wedding or equivalent ceremony and wedding receptions, where the organiser has carried out a risk assessment and taken all reasonable measures to limit the risk of transmission of the virus – up to a maximum of 15 people.
- For a funeral, up to a maximum of 30 people. Wakes and other commemorative events are permitted with up to 15 people present.
- For elite sportspeople and their coaches if necessary, for competition and training, as well as parents or guardians if they are a child.
- For outdoor exercise and dance classes, organised outdoor sport and licensed outdoor physical activity.
- Support groups of up to 15 participants – formally organised groups to provide mutual aid, therapy or any other form of support.
- Protests, if organised in compliance with COVID-secure guidance.

Other activities, such as organised indoor sport, indoor exercise classes and other activity groups can continue with more than 6 people present provided that groups of more than 6 do not mix. Where it is likely that groups will mix, these activities must not go ahead.

Where a group includes someone covered by such an exception (for example, someone who is working), they are not generally counted as part of the gatherings limit. This means, for example, a tradesperson can go into a household without breaching the limit, if they are there for work.