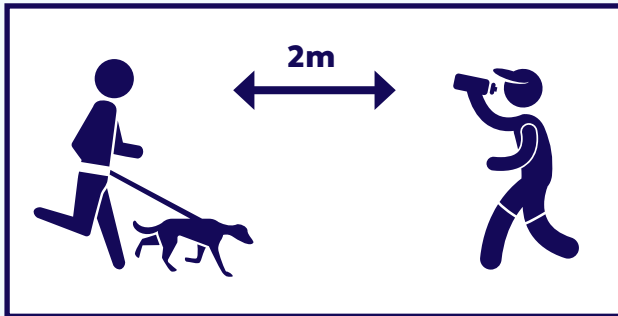


Policing the pandemic – possible Bank Holiday weekend issues

What's not enforceable?

Government guidance, like going outside **once a day** for a walk, run, cycle OR staying **two metres away** from people you don't live with, is not legally enforceable, but it is best practice and can be used to help to encourage people to change their behaviour.



House parties and BBQs

There are **no powers for officers to enter private dwellings under the Coronavirus legislation**. We know it's been confusing that people have been talking about the guidance as if it is 'the rules', which implies it's enforceable under the Law or Regulations. Ensure your enforcement powers are in line with the Law and Regulations and not the surrounding commentary.

There are a number of tactical options you might consider, especially if other offences are taking place. There might be a threatened breach of the peace, owing to community tensions because of the gathering.

The best initial response is engagement. Talk to the occupier. If awareness is an issue, explaining the risks to them may be the best way of getting a result with the least intervention.

Be aware of the public's heightened stress levels at this difficult time. Deal with these situations sensitively.



Deal with any substantive offences as you would usually

Example: Andrew is arrested for shop lifting. You may choose to point out that Andrew is breaching the Coronavirus Regulations by being outside his house without a reasonable excuse, tell him that, explain the situation, but he should be dealt with for the substantive offence of theft only.



- 1 Engage
- 2 Explain
- 3 Encourage
- 4 Enforce

These four-step escalation principles underpin the police strategy and response to the coronavirus pandemic.

Remember: Enforcement is a last resort.