



COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions for Sponsors

What happens to any Work and Development Permits I am overseeing if the approved activity is suddenly unable to continue due to impacts of COVID-19?

Work and Development Permits may be amended in the eCourts Portal to include a suitable alternative activity under the same category, if you are able to provide this to the participant. Switching modes of delivery (e.g. in-person to online) does not require an amendment.

Please be aware if a permit is amended in the portal, the original permit will close, and new approval is needed from FER.

The Fines Enforcement Registry may contact you to discuss the circumstances of a permit if activity hours have not been logged in an expected timeframe. WDPs cannot be placed on hold indefinitely, however, a temporary gap due to government mandates or staffing shortages that impede the activity can be noted in communications with the Fines Enforcement Registry.

How will WDPs be impacted if my workplace has COVID-19 protocols in place for anyone attending the premises?

Potential clients are notified that COVID-19 protocols may apply to activities facilitated by approved sponsors. These may include mandatory health declarations, vaccinations, use of face masks or social distancing and capacity limits. Please note that vaccination against COVID-19 does not form part of the eligibility criteria to participate in the WDP Scheme but may be a requirement for attendance at the discretion of sponsors.

WDPs may need to be cancelled if a current client refuses or is unable to comply with COVID-19 protocols to attend the premises, and an alternative delivery mode is not suitable (e.g. a phone appointment for counselling). Permits may be placed on hold to allow time for clients to meet sponsor requirements for in-person attendance.

Sponsors should advise FER if a permit needs to be placed on hold.

**I am unable to take on new WDP clients while staffing and other resources are limited.
What can I do?**

Please contact the Fines Enforcement Registry to update any details on the public register of approved sponsors. Your status can be changed to “At Capacity”, with further details in the Comments section of your listing(s).

Some examples include:

- Referrals and existing clients only
- Existing clients only
- Details of temporary closure or cancellation of activities
- Requirements for client attendance as part of your COVID-19 protocols.