**Covid-19: Digital and Socially Distanced Engagement Guide**

**July 2020 v2**

**Introduction**

The Coronavirus pandemic in 2020 has had a huge impact upon people’s lives and the ‘normal’ ways in which people live their lives. One of the many ways in which we have been forced to change our approach to research has been how to think about engagement with publics, communities and collaborative partners. Currently researchers are only allowed to engage with publics face-to-face if they follow the [social distancing guidance](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing) set out by the government.

This guide aims to signpost and highlight alternative engagement methods that may be alternatives to in person engagement with research. The list is not exhaustive, so if you have any suggestions please email them to [PER@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:PER@exeter.ac.uk) and we can update the guide.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Blogs** | | | |
| **Title** | **Description** | **Link** | **Tags** |
| Hyperlocal engagement during the time of lockdown | What does public engagement look like during a time of lockdown and social distancing? Does it all have to take place online? David Owen reflects on how public engagement is being re-imagined and invites you to share your ideas. | <https://www.publicengagement.ac.uk/whats-new/blog/hyperlocal-engagement-during-time-lockdown> | Socially distanced engagement |
| Communicating research during Covid-19 | Paul Manners (Director, National Coordinating Centre for Public Engagement) breaks down best practice in engaging the public with research during the pandemic. | <https://wonkhe.com/blogs/communicating-research-during-covid-19/> | Research communication |
| CPExplores: Should we be taking our engagement projects online? | QMUL’s Centre for Public Engagement sets out to answer some of the most pressing engagement questions in relation to COVID-19 and engagement. | <https://www.qmul.ac.uk/publicengagement/blog/2020-blog-posts/items/cpexplores-should-we-be-taking-our-engagement-projects-online.html> | Digital engagement  Adapting existing PE |
| Learning from our virtual co-creation: accessibility and adaptability | Members of the Centre for Co-Production explore the importance of accessibility and adaptability. | <https://blogs.ucl.ac.uk/public-engagement/2020/06/21/learning-from-our-virtual-co-creation-accessibility-and-adaptability/> | Digital engagement  Adapting existing PE |
| Engagement in a time of social distancing | What does engagement mean in a time of social distancing? This blog creates a list of advice and tips to help researchers navigate their projects and be the support their partners need. | <https://blogs.ucl.ac.uk/public-engagement/2020/03/25/distanced-engagement/> | Adapting existing PE |
| Digital Tools for Participation: Where to Start? | This blog post aims to give you a few pointers to help get you started. It’s based on a combination of our own experience, discussion with other practitioners and knowledge of good engagement principles and practice. | <https://www.involve.org.uk/resources/blog/opinion/digital-tools-participation-where-start> | Digital engagement |
| **Guides and resources** | | | |
| **Title** | **Description** | **Link** | **Tags** |
| University of Exeter Online Engagement Resources | A note of discussions at a recent UoE webinar that focused on online engagement. | <https://docs.google.com/document/d/17XeCN3VWEPb-R9ixlNgWu_vPfYP35btpCUJHkwNb_Pc/edit> | Adapting existing PE  Digital engagement |
| Guidance for Online Events | University of Exeter Communications Team share their advice on organising virtual events. Includes a risk assessment template, checklist and joining instructions. | <http://www.exeter.ac.uk/departments/communication/communications/events/toolkit/online-events/> | Digital engagement |
| Knowledge Sharing and Exchange in a Pandemic | The Cultural Capital Exchange has developed a crowd-sourced document as a rapid-fire means of creating a space for researchers and for the knowledge exchange community to share stories and examples of good and innovative practices at this time of unprecedented challenge as a result of Covid-19. | <https://www.theculturecapitalexchange.co.uk/2020/06/02/knowledge-sharing-and-exchange-in-a-pandemic/> | Adapting existing PE  Digital engagement |
| Coronavirus Tech Handbook | An open Google Doc with links to research-related resources. Includes sections on collaborations, remote decision making and creative tools. | <https://coronavirustechhandbook.com/> | Digital engagement |
| Making Connections During the Coronavirus Pandemic | A guide from the Elizabeth Blackwell Institute at the University of Bristol. Covers the basics of engagement and some practical tips for engagement during the pandemic. | <http://www.bris.ac.uk/blackwell/public-engagement/update-during-coronavirus/making-connections/> | Digital engagement  Socially distanced engagement |
| A map of resources for co-producing research in health and social care | A guide for researchers, professionals and public contributors to navigate the different tools and guidance that can help people produce research together.  Features a section on co-production during Covid-19. | <https://arc-w.nihr.ac.uk/publications/a-map-of-resources-for-co-producing-research-in-health-and-social-care/> | Patient and Public Involvement  Digital engagement |
| Online Engagement: A guide to creating and running virtual meetings and events | A guide on engaging publics using digital platforms. | <https://www.publicengagement.ac.uk/meaningful-engagement-online-events> | P6 – online platforms list |
| Top tips for carrying out PPI activities during COVID-19 | Top tips for researchers who are in the process of applying for grants, to consider how to ensure they can continue to collaborate with public representatives in a meaningful way. | <https://www.rds-sc.nihr.ac.uk/ppi-information-resources/ppi-covid19/> | Patient and Public Involvement  Digital engagement |
| Shared National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) commitments to public involvement, participation and engagement during the COVID-19 pandemic | The NIHR Public Involvement Senior Leadership Team has agreed new commitments for patient and public involvement, engagement and participation (PIE) during the COVID-19 pandemic. | <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/documents/shared-nihr-commitments-to-public-involvement-participation-and-engagement-during-the-covid-19-pandemic/24640> | Patient and Public Involvement  Digital engagement |
| Guide to Online Engagement | The University of Bath’s Public Engagement with Research Unit shares their top tips on moving your engagement online. | <http://blogs.bath.ac.uk/publicengagement/2020/04/23/guide-to-online-engagement/> | Digital engagement  Adapting existing PE |
| Supporting Impact through Online Public Engagement | The University of Bath’s Public Engagement with Research Unit shares a recording of a recent online webinar sharing ways in which to move your engagement online. | [https://vimeo.com/434362613/a1f9b2a045](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fvimeo.com%2F434362613%2Fa1f9b2a045&data=02%7C01%7Cgrace.williams%40exeter.ac.uk%7C1a765b12ff23443ff28908d829765361%7C912a5d77fb984eeeaf321334d8f04a53%7C0%7C0%7C637304935464527615&sdata=4ZvStmKuhKvJUY8RFxAT7BEGpqLUG%2FHIrV8oy20u%2FFs%3D&reserved=0) | Digital engagement  Adapting existing PE |
| Online Communities and Communication Tools | A series of guidebooks for anyone wishing to use Slack as a collaborative workspace. | <https://www.cscce.org/resources/online-communities-and-communication-tools/> | Digital engagement |
| Carry on co-producing: handy hints and tips to help you out | University College London shares tips and advice for virtual co-production, listing handbooks they have found useful, some training courses to try out and information on accessibility. | <https://blogs.ucl.ac.uk/public-engagement/2020/05/06/carry-on-co-producing-part2/> | Digital engagement  Adapting existing PE |
| 25 useful free online tools for workshop planning and meeting facilitation | Are you facilitating workshops, meetings or training sessions regularly? There are plenty of online tools to make your life easier when you need to prepare for meeting facilitation and to conduct workshops. | <https://www.sessionlab.com/blog/online-tools-for-workshops/> | Digital engagement  Adapting existing PE |
| Google Jamboard and MURAL | Two online-based collaborative working platforms. Jamboard is free, MURAL is a subscription service. | <https://jamboard.google.com/>  <https://www.mural.co/> | Digital engagement |
| **Engagement examples** | | | |
| **Title** | **Description** | **Link** | **Tags** |
| Sidewalk Science | Danna Staaf shares their experiences of engaging passing publics in their chalk-based engagement. | <https://twitter.com/DannaStaaf/status/1255882864144470017> | Socially distanced engagement |
| Writing Back | The project tackles loneliness and isolation using a pen pal exchange between university students in Leeds and older residents in Yorkshire. | <https://www.publicengagement.ac.uk/do-engagement/inspire-me/case-studies/writing-back>  <https://ahc.leeds.ac.uk/homepage/270/writing_back>  <https://www.ingentaconnect.com/contentone/ioep/rfa/2019/00000003/00000001/art00006> | Socially distanced engagement |
| Museum Lates | The Natural History Museum has transplanted its Museum Lates series onto a digital platform. | <https://www.nhm.ac.uk/events/lates.html> | Digital engagement  Adapting existing PE |
| Southampton Science and Engineering Festival | The University of Southampton’s Science and Engineering Festival has moved its annual festival online for 2020. Follow their webpage to see how the programme unfolds and examples of digital engagement. | <https://www.sotsef.co.uk/> | Digital engagement  Adapting existing PE |