# Fundraising from home

In light of recent developments regarding the coronavirus (COVID 19) outbreak, some of the fundraising events that you had planned may no longer be possible.

In line with the latest public health advice, we are asking people not to organise social gatherings or events involving physical interaction. Everyone should follow the government guidance on reducing physical interaction, which you can read [here](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people/guidance-on-social-distancing-for-everyone-in-the-uk-and-protecting-older-people-and-vulnerable-adults).

This means that classic fundraising events such as coffee mornings, pub quizzes, and cake sales are not currently not an option. But don’t worry – there are still plenty of ways that you can raise vital funds in aid Meningitis Research Foundation during these unprecedented times.

## Should I continue fundraising for Meningitis Research Foundation?

Yes! MRF relies on fundraisers to continue our essential work. As some events have been postponed, we may not raise all of the funds we had hoped for this year.

We will therefore be asking for concerted fundraising efforts from our supporters.

Meningitis affects 5 million people each year and our work to defeat meningitis continues. This is a vital year for us, on the verge of securing the first ever global plan to defeat meningitis. To make this happen, we need the continued support of our fundraisers.

## Will people still want to donate?

We understand that there is a lot of uncertainty surrounding how the COVID 19 outbreak may impact people financially, and it’s important to take this into consideration when asking friends and family to donate.

However, you may find that the current situation is inspiring many to be motivated to do something positive in these unprecedented times, and may be surprised how willing people are to support you at the moment.

## How can I continue to fundraise in a time of social distancing?

There are plenty of ways that you can continue to fundraise whilst keeping yourself and those around you safe.

Here are some of our top tips for fundraising from home to get you started, and we will be sharing even more ideas and resources with you over the coming weeks.

## Share your online fundraising page

Social distancing means that many people are looking at their phones and social media now more than ever, making this the perfect time to be sharing your fundraising page.

Why not make things interesting and incentivise people to sponsor you by saying that if you raise a certain amount (e.g. £100) then you will give up something you love for a period of time. Chocolate, alcohol, and caffeine are all great suggestions!

Alternatively, why not ask people to donate the money that they would usually be spending on their daily commute or morning coffee?

Check out our Online Fundraising Guide [here](https://www.meningitis.org/getmedia/6c6c5a6e-ba9d-45de-9077-01f270876e3a/Online-Fundraising-Guide?disposition=attachment) for all of our top tips for sharing your online fundraising page on social media.

## Dares for dosh

It’s simple, do ridiculous dares for donations!

Ask friends and family to donate a set amount (e.g. £5), and in return they can set you a challenge that you must then do via Facebook Live or other streaming services.

We’ve had some great dares in the past including such as eating dry crackers or a spicy chilli/pepper, leg waxing, and loads more!

To ensure that the dares are ones you are comfortable with, it’s best to suggest the dares yourself and have a fundraising target for each. Once the target is met its time for your dare!

## Write to your local rotary club

You can find full instructions on how to contact your local Rotary Club by checking out our how-to guide [here.](https://www.meningitis.org/getmedia/555fc816-c02c-4abe-8fa4-e0a53edc8f02/Rotary-Club?disposition=attachment)

Even if your local club has postponed all their meetings for the time being, it’s still worth writing to them as they will get back to you at some point – even if this isn’t until a couple of months down the line.

## Baby photos

A great office fundraiser, which works just as well when working from home!

Ask your colleagues to all send you a photo of themselves as a baby or toddler and make a donation to your fundraising page. Once all the photos and donations have been collected in, send everyone a form with all the photos where they must guess who is who. Whoever gets the most right wins a prize, and you could also announce the winner of who you think was the cutest baby!

## Sponsored Playlist

The government is advising that even whilst self-isolating, you should still stay active and make sure that you are getting outside regularly for a walk or run.

Next time you go for a run, why not try doing a sponsored playlist in order to bring in some donations? You can check out our how-to guide with full details by following [this link.](https://www.meningitis.org/getmedia/694e32cf-5dfd-4098-bff9-1211d3031fc3/Sponsored-Playlist-Guide?disposition=attachment)

## Spring clean

Why not make the most of the time you’re spending at home to have a good clear out, and sell old items on websites/apps such as eBay and Depop?

Maximize donations by asking your friends and family to do the same, and to donate their unwanted items to you to sell. This is really great way that you can ask your loved ones to support you and your fundraising in a non-financial way if they can’t afford to give you a donation right now.

Please take into consideration that there may be delays to the postal service at this time, and advise anyone who purchases an item from you as such. Please also note that we do not support the selling of essential items such hand gel and toilet paper, and doing so is prohibited by online selling platforms.

## Tutoring

With an increasing number of schools closing, a lot of parents will be grateful for the offer of virtual tutoring over Skype. This can be an easy and effective way to fundraise for those of you who are academically minded, and is easy to do from the comfort of your home.

## Get creative

Doing something creative is not only great for your mental health and wellbeing, but could be a great way to raise money too.

Why not make some homemade cards to sell online, so that people can send a card to their loved ones to let them know that they are thinking of them at this difficult time.

## Treasure map

Get a large picture of a treasure map and divide it into 50-100 squares. Choose a winning square and put the coordinates into an envelope. Ask people to donate a set amount in order to pick a square, and whoever picks the winning square gets a prize.

## Guess the name of the teddy

Ask a local business or friends/family to donate a teddy bear, or see if you can find a bargain to purchase online. Put together a list of names, and ask people to donate a set amount (e.g. £2) to choose the name that they think the teddy is called. Then, once all of the names have been taken, announce the real name and promise that you will give the teddy bear to the winner once self-isolation rules have been lifted.

## Purple day

Working from home doesn’t meant that you can’t still hold a Purple Day fundraiser! Ask your colleagues to make a donation and wear the colour purple for the day, and organise an all-staff video call so that you can admire each other’s dazzling outfits.

Alternatively, why not put a spin on the classic Friday ‘dress down’ day? Working from home often means that every day turns into a dress down day, so why not have a ‘dress up day’ instead? Encourage your colleagues to wear their smartest suit or fanciest party dress and to make a donation to your online fundraising page for a bit of virtual office fun.

## A bloody great fundraiser

Do you know a bunch of potty-mouths? Create a swear jar ask your family/housemates to put some change in it every time they swear! Depending on just how foul-mouthed your friends are, this could add up to a considerable amount by the end of the year!

Alternatively, use your online fundraising page as a ‘virtual swear jar’, where friends and family who are further afield can donate a pound every time they find themselves cursing.

## Make your event virtual

Although you might not be able to hold that pub quiz you had been planning in person anymore, there are plenty of ways that you can still hold many fundraising events virtually.

Click on the links below to check out our:

[Virtual Quiz Guide](https://www.meningitis.org/getmedia/b2fcf535-d94b-40bd-9759-0ca170ac6f7d/Virtual-Quiz-Guide?disposition=attachment)

[Virtual Collection Guide](https://www.meningitis.org/getmedia/ae4eaaeb-a544-4a82-83d5-cef637b4ec9c/Virtual-Collection-Guide?disposition=attachment) (for students)

We are working on creating even more of these guides, so watch this space for more suggestions to follow soon!

## Keep up the amazing work

The Fundraising Team are working hard to create more fundraising guides of additional ways that you can continue to fundraise from home, which we will be sharing with you over the coming weeks. In the meantime, the team are available via email or phone and are happy to answer any questions that you may have. We are working hard to ensure that we continue to provide you with the best possible support with your fundraising.

Thank you so much for your patience and understanding during these unprecedented times. Your ongoing support is invaluable to us now more than ever.