

Coronavirus advice for residential outdoor settings summarised from various sources

Compiled by Dave Squire. 19th May 2020

Advice for education settings

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings>

Wearing a face covering or face mask in schools or other education settings is not recommended. Face coverings may be beneficial for short periods indoors where there is a risk of close social contact with people you do not usually meet and where social distancing and other measures cannot be maintained, for example on public transport or in some shops. This does not apply to schools or other education settings. Schools and other education or childcare settings should therefore not require staff, children, and learners to wear face coverings.

Reduce mixing within education or childcare setting by:

accessing rooms directly from outside where possible

considering one-way circulation, or place a divider down the middle of the corridor to keep groups apart as they move through the setting where spaces are accessed by corridors

staggering breaks to ensure that any corridors or circulation routes used have a limited number of pupils using them at any time

staggering lunch breaks - children and young people should clean their hands beforehand and enter in the groups they are already in, groups should be kept apart as much as possible and tables should be cleaned between each group. If such measures are not possible, children should be brought their lunch in their classrooms

ensuring that toilets do not become crowded by limiting the number of children or young people who use the toilet facilities at one time

noting that some children and young people will need additional support to follow these measures (for example, routes round school marked in braille or with other meaningful symbols, and social stories to support them in understanding how to follow rules)

Use outside space:

For exercise and breaks

For outdoor education, where possible, as this can limit transmission and more easily allow for distance between children and staff

Although outdoor equipment should not be used unless the setting is able to ensure that it is appropriately cleaned between groups of children and young people using it, and that multiple groups do not use it simultaneously. Read COVID-19: cleaning of non-healthcare settings

For shared rooms:

use halls, dining areas and internal and external sports facilities for lunch and exercise at half capacity. If class groups take staggered breaks between lessons, these areas can be shared as long as different groups do not mix (and especially do not play sports or games together) and adequate cleaning between groups is in place, following the COVID-19: cleaning of non-healthcare settings guidance

stagger the use of staff rooms and offices to limit occupancy

Reference to PPE for cleaning and prevention of contamination means:

fluid-resistant surgical face masks

disposable gloves

disposable plastic aprons

eye protection (for example a face visor or goggles)

Where PPE is recommended, this means that:

- a facemask should be worn if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained from someone with symptoms of coronavirus
- if contact is necessary, then gloves, an apron and a facemask should be worn
- if a risk assessment determines that there is a risk of fluids entering the eye from, for example, coughing, spitting or vomiting, then eye protection should also be worn

Advice regarding Cleaning in Non healthcare settings

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings>

What you need to know

- Cleaning an area with normal household disinfectant after someone with suspected coronavirus (COVID-19) has left will reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people
- Wear disposable or washing-up gloves and aprons for cleaning. These should be double-bagged, then stored securely for 72 hours then thrown away in the regular rubbish after cleaning is finished
- Using a disposable cloth, first clean hard surfaces with warm soapy water. Then disinfect these surfaces with the cleaning products you normally use. Pay attention to frequently touched areas and surfaces, such as bathrooms, grab-rails in corridors and stairwells and door handles
- If an area has been heavily contaminated, such as with visible bodily fluids, from a person with coronavirus (COVID-19), use protection for the eyes, mouth, and nose, as well as wearing gloves and an apron
- Wash hands regularly with soap and water for 20 seconds, and after removing gloves, aprons and other protection used while cleaning

Personal protective equipment (PPE)

The minimum PPE to be worn for cleaning an area where a person with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) is disposable gloves and an apron. Hands should be washed with soap and water for 20 seconds after all PPE has been removed.

If a risk assessment of the setting indicates that a higher level of virus may be present (for example, where unwell individuals have slept such as a hotel room or boarding school dormitory) or there is visible contamination with body fluids, then the need for additional PPE to protect the cleaner's eyes, mouth and nose might be necessary. The local Public Health England (PHE) Health Protection Team (HPT) can advise on this.

Cleaning and disinfection

Public areas where a symptomatic individual has passed through and spent minimal time, such as corridors, but which are not visibly contaminated with body fluids can be cleaned thoroughly as normal.

All surfaces that the symptomatic person has come into contact with must be cleaned and disinfected, including:

- objects which are visibly contaminated with body fluids
- all potentially contaminated high-contact areas such as bathrooms, door handles, telephones, grab-rails in corridors and stairwells
- Use disposable cloths or paper roll and disposable mop heads, to clean all hard surfaces, floors, chairs, door handles and sanitary fittings, following one of the options below:
- use either a combined detergent disinfectant solution at a dilution of 1,000 parts per million available chlorine

or

- a household detergent followed by disinfection (1000 ppm av.cl.). Follow manufacturer's instructions for dilution, application and contact times for all detergents and disinfectants

or

- if an alternative disinfectant is used within the organisation, this should be checked and ensure that it is effective against enveloped viruses
- Avoid creating splashes and spray when cleaning.
- Any cloths and mop heads used must be disposed of and should be put into waste bags as outlined below.
- When items cannot be cleaned using detergents or laundered, for example, upholstered furniture and mattresses, steam cleaning should be used.
- Any items that are heavily contaminated with body fluids and cannot be cleaned by washing should be disposed of.

Waste

Waste from possible cases and cleaning of areas where possible cases have been (including disposable cloths and tissues):

Should be put in a plastic rubbish bag and tied when full.

The plastic bag should then be placed in a second bin bag and tied.

It should be put in a suitable and secure place and marked for storage until the individual's test results are known.

Waste should be stored safely and kept away from children. You should not put your waste in communal waste areas until negative test results are known or the waste has been stored for at least 72 hours.

if the individual tests negative, this can be put in with the normal waste

if the individual tests positive, then store it for at least 72 hours and put in with the normal waste

If storage for at least 72 hours is not appropriate, arrange for collection as a Category B infectious waste either by your local waste collection authority if they currently collect your waste or otherwise by a specialist clinical waste contractor. They will supply you with orange clinical waste bags for you to place your bags into so the waste can be sent for appropriate treatment.

International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA, US based) guidance for theme parks and attractions to reopen

<http://www.vertex-training.co.uk/docs/iappav1.pdf>

Topline Considerations for Reopening:

1. Allow healthy people to enjoy the facility and encourage the use of masks/face coverings for guests and staff.
2. Provide means to wash/sanitize hands frequently.
3. Manage density of people within the facility to keep people or family units that have been isolating together 6 feet (2 meters) apart. Physical distancing guidelines may vary by region and can be reduced by wearing of masks/ face coverings—ensure your plan is aligned with local official guidance.
4. Reduce touch areas where possible and sanitize high touch surfaces frequently.
5. Protect employees with various approaches, including barriers, protective coverings, and distancing.
6. Communicate with employees and guests effectively on how to prevent the spread of germs.
7. Have a plan in the event a guest or employee falls ill on site.

GENERAL GUIDELINES – ALL TYPES OF ATTRACTIONS

The following guidelines can be applied to all facilities, regardless of attraction type.

GENERAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

1. Frequent handwashing is essential and is the responsibility of all employees and guests. Facilities should remind everyone of the importance of frequently washing their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds.

2. Provide additional handwashing or hand sanitizer hygiene stations throughout facilities: on entry, in key walkways, at all attractions, in food and beverage locations, in merchandise shops, at attraction exits, etc. These should also be provided behind the scenes in maintenance areas, workshops, offices, and break areas.

RESOURCES Handwashing (World Health Organization):

<https://www.who.int/docs/defaultsource/inaugural-who-partners-forum/who-interim-recommendation-onobligatory-hand-hygiene-against-transmission-of-covid-19.pdf>

3. All employees should wear masks/face coverings while on the job, interacting with others. Guests are encouraged to wear masks/face coverings as well.

4. Utilize touch-free/contactless payment options when possible.

5. Reduce attraction capacity to allow for appropriate physical distancing. The capacity should be calculated for an attraction based on the guest-accessible square footage in attractions, attraction queue lines, retail locations, and other common areas. These calculations should be adjusted if some of those locations are closed or not accessible even on a temporary basis. Be sure to consider how emergency procedures (i.e. a severe storm) could impact accessible space.

6. Reduce face-to-face purchase transactions when possible. Encourage guests to purchase tickets online if possible. Consider all-inclusive package offers.

7. Ensure your First Aid protocols address how to manage guests or employees with COVID-19 symptoms. a. If First Aid is staffed internally, provide the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). If First Aid services are subcontracted to an outside firm, insist that firm provide the appropriate PPE for their employees. b. Develop an isolation/quarantine area for the individual and his/her immediate party while assessment is completed.

RE OPENING GUIDANCE: Global Attractions Industry (as of 1/5/2020)

- Thoroughly clean and sanitize locations visited by a guest or employee with COVID-19 symptoms. Follow professional healthcare guidelines for these processes.
- Place acrylic (plexiglass) or other types of barriers/hygiene screens between guest and staff in frequent, close interaction areas wherever practical to reduce contamination. Clean the barriers/hygiene screens regularly.
- Proactively communicate guidelines and expectations for health and hygiene procedures and precautions in the front-of-house areas for guests and in the behind-the-scenes areas for employees.
- Consider your communication protocols. Do you need to add codes or signals to address: COVID-19 specific emergency medical service calls? Physical distancing violations? A need for an immediate cleaning or sanitation service?
- Limiting face-to-face contact with others is the best way to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Clearly mark physical distancing spaces/guidelines with floor markings, seat markings, or signs to make it easy for the guests to understand what is expected.

RESOURCES: Physical Distancing (U.S. CDC):

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019ncov/prevent-getting-sick/social-distancing.html>

GUEST CONFIDENCE/GUEST COMMUNICATION

1. Consider the importance of warning guests about the risk of contracting COVID19 in any public space, including posting signs/messages like the following example:

We are committed to keeping you healthy and safe, but we cannot guarantee you won't be exposed to COVID-19. We rely on you to protect yourself too:

- *Wash your hands often and avoid touching your face*
- *Maintain your distance from others*
- *Cover your mouth and nose*
- *Avoid touching surfaces*
- *If you're sick, please don't participate and encourage your family not to participate until you are well.*

2. Signs with health and hygiene reminders should be visible throughout the property.

3. Communicate new operational procedures to guests prior to arrival, on the attraction's website, and through social media to establish expectations and instill confidence, including:

- a. Identifying COVID-19 symptoms and messaging that asks guest to come back another day if anyone in their party is experiencing the symptoms
- b. Directives on wearing masks/ face coverings for employees and guests
- c. Physical distancing guidelines
- d. Capacity limits that facilitate social distancing
- e. Enhanced cleaning and sanitizing protocols
- f. Use of temperature checks/thermal scanning cameras (if required)

4. Take a proactive approach with messaging to guests prior to arrival and on arrival of methods being deployed for employee and guest safety.

5. Consider marketing campaigns about the actions put in place to show the guest safety measures that are being taken.

6. Signs should be placed to remind guests of physical distancing requirements.

7. Signs should be placed in restrooms and throughout facilities to remind guests of appropriate handwashing standards (soap, water, 20 seconds).

8. Ensure in-attraction cleaning/sanitizing team is highly visible to provide reassurance.

9. Consider a guest tip line (phone number) or build the functionality into an app that would allow guests to report health, safety, or cleanliness concerns to management in a timely manner.

Note: Consider placing back-of-house signage reminding employees of the proper way to wear, handle, and dispose of masks/ face coverings and other PPE. Also remind them to wash hands frequently, how to cough or sneeze into their elbow, and to avoid touching their face.

GUEST RESPONSIBILITY

Consider the following points when communicating to guests about their responsibility:

1. If you or any member of your party or family is not feeling well, don't visit. Plan to come when everyone is well.
2. Currently, government health organizations are recommending people 65 years and older, those who live in a nursing homes or long-term care facilities, and people with underlying medical conditions (particularly if not well controlled) should either remain home or keep their distance from others. Underlying medical conditions include chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma, serious heart conditions, immunocompromised, severe obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 40 or higher), diabetes, chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis, and liver disease.

REFERENCE: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-gettingsick/prevention.html> and <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extraprecautions/people-at-higher-risk.html> .

3. Please wear a mask/ face covering throughout your visit if you can safely do so. This is for your own protection and for the protection of other guests and employees in the attraction. Employees will also be wearing masks/ face coverings. Masks/ face coverings can be purchased from various sources or homemade as long as they cover your nose and mouth. Some masks/ face coverings may not be permitted on some attractions if they cannot be properly secured based on the dynamics of the attraction.
4. Wash your hands frequently and practice good hygiene while visiting an attraction: a. Wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds throughout your visit. Use hand sanitizer as an alternative. (Wash them after coughing or sneezing, before eating, after toilet use, and when hands are visibly dirty.) b. When coughing or sneezing, cover your mouth and nose with a flexed elbow or tissue. Throw tissue into a trash receptacle after use.
5. At some attractions, you may be asked to apply hand sanitizer before, during, and/or after the experience.
6. We have enhanced our already-stringent cleaning protocols considering the COVID-19 pandemic. We apologize if you experience any delays or inconvenience as a result of these procedures.
7. Follow social/physical distancing guidelines carefully, maintaining 6 feet (2 meters) of space from others. Family members and others (a "family unit") who live in the same household can be closer together. All others should strictly adhere to the physical distancing guidelines. This will apply throughout the attraction including on rides in queue lines, in exhibits, in food and beverage facilities, in show venues and theatres, and in restrooms.
8. To facilitate adherence to physical distancing guidelines, attractions may reduce capacity or close some attractions. Please be patient and understanding with these necessary operational changes.
9. If you feel ill once you are at the attraction go to First Aid or let an employee know. You and your party may be asked to move to a special area within a facility for further assessment.

RESTROOM CLEANLINESS

1. Consider dedicating employees to cleaning/disinfecting restrooms frequently. They should also monitor/control restroom capacity to uphold physical distancing guidelines in those facilities. Consider closing or otherwise disabling every other (or every two) toilets to ensure guests maintain physical distancing protocols in restrooms.
2. Be extra vigilant with cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing protocols. Document processes and procedures to ensure they are effective.
3. Pay extra attention to high-touch surfaces in restrooms including door handles, trash receptacle touchpoints, countertops, benches, toilets, sink faucets and toilet handles, soap dispenser push plates, baby changing stations, towel dispenser handles, doorknobs, light switches, and sinks.
4. Be sure to sanitize common use items like water fountains or disable them if allowed by the health department.
5. Provide a means for employees and guests to dry their hands. Paper towels that can be disposed of in the trash are preferred.
6. Evaluate replacing sinks and toilets with touchless valves or flushing devices where possible.

ADVICE ON OPERATING RIDES

- When physically verifying that safety gates are locked and secured, operators can use their feet or knees to check movement. If hands must be used to ensure a gate is locked, operators should wash/sanitize hands before moving on to another task.
- Follow manufacturer guidelines/standard operating protocols to ensure restraints are locked, seatbelts are fastened, and riders are properly secured. The guests and employees should wear face masks/ face coverings during the process as long as the masks/ face coverings do not interfere with the safe operation of the ride.
- Carefully evaluate attractions that require time-consuming personal harnessing like ropes courses, climbing walls, and steel-cable swing rides because of the difficulty managing personal distancing during the harnessing process. The increased cleaning and sanitizing of the harnesses and other equipment between each use may also be difficult and time consuming.

RETAIL AND MERCHANDISE

1. Sell hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol), masks/ face coverings, and face coverings as guest convenience items. Coordinate with the operations department to ensure the masks/ face coverings you sell are appropriate for your attractions.
2. Educate customers with appropriate signage to only touch what they intend to purchase.
3. Create floor markings that provide minimum guide distances between customers queuing for service or cashiers.
4. Use physical barriers to separate staff from guests at cash registers and in merchandise pick-up locations where needed. Many businesses are using plexiglass/acrylic panels for these barriers to provide optimum visibility.

5. Cash wraps, physical barriers, phones, handles, knobs, hard surfaces, handles, and frequently touched surfaces should be sanitized frequently and upon shift change.
6. Evaluate merchandise pick-up/room delivery operations to determine if they should be temporarily discontinued.
9. Allow guests to put their purchased items into shopping bags themselves so employees don't touch them.

Other guidance that might be relevant

Working safely during COVID-19 in construction and other outdoor work:

<http://www.vertex-training.co.uk/docs/outdoor.pdf>

Talking with your workers about preventing coronavirus (HSE document)

<http://www.vertex-training.co.uk/docs/talking.pdf>