



NADCAA

Newton Abbot & District Co-Operative Allotment Association

Registered Company No: 4480485

Coronavirus Guidance Update 19/09/2020

The Committee don't usually meeting in August, but due to the current situation we decided to hold our first physical meeting since March. It was held outdoors with social distancing rules followed by all in attendance. It was our intention to give committee members who do not have Zoom technology a chance to give updates.

The continued safety of all members on the allotment fields remains our main concern and of paramount importance. With that in mind here is the latest guidance, please take the time to read it –

March seems like a very long time ago now but we all continue to live through a crisis, the likes of which the country has never experienced before. The community spirit on the allotment fields has been overwhelming, thank you to everyone who has helped those members who have had to shield and self-isolate. Please continue to look out for one another during these very difficult times and take all the steps you can to reduce the risk of contagion from the Covid-19 virus when you visit the plot.

The summer months saw a significant drop in transmission and deaths from Covid 19, however as you will be aware infections are on the rise again and plot-holders need to follow the government guidelines that come in to force on the 14 September.

I know I have said this before but this is no time for complacency, always remember to follow social distancing guidelines and take all precautions regarding hygiene when visiting the sites and touching all communal surfaces. If you are over 70 years of age, regardless of your general health you are particularly vulnerable. You may feel safe on the allotment sites but there are still risks.

Covid-19 - The virus that causes Covid-19 is mainly transmitted through droplets generated when an infected person coughs, sneezes or speaks. The droplets are too heavy to hang in the air and they quickly fall and contaminate floors and surfaces.

Smaller airborne particles can remain in the air for some time. You can be infected by breathing in the virus if you are within close proximity of a person who has Covid-19- hence the 2m social distancing requirement, or by touching a contaminated surface and then touching your eyes, nose or mouth before washing your hands.

Any plot-holder who is self-isolating because a household member is ill with coronavirus should not be visiting the site at all.

If you are self-isolating and are unable to go to the allotment and are worried about losing your plot, this is what should I do:

Please make sure that you inform the Secretary by ringing 07804 122826 or emailing info@nadcaa.org.uk

As things return to the "new normal" the Membership Secretary will be contacting members that have plots that are not being worked to ascertain when they can restart cultivation.

**The Administrator (NADCAA Ltd), c/o Newton Abbot Town Council, 43 Wolborough Street,
Newton Abbot, Devon TQ12 1JQ**

Company Secretary: 07804 122826 (Secretary)
Email: info@nadcaa.org.uk

Membership Secretary: 07387 638782
Web: <https://nadcaa.org.uk>

It is essential that no un-authorised people are allowed onto the plots for the duration of this emergency, if you do wish to bring someone to assist with work on the plot, please ensure that this is notified either to the Secretary or the Field Manager. Careful consideration should be given to introducing anyone over 70, those with underlying illness or pregnant women. In addition if you employ someone to come and do some work for you please inform the Field Manager in advance of the work being undertaken.

You can visit the allotment with members of your household.

To ensure your family's and everyone else's safety at the plot –

- **Do not attend the plot** if you have coronavirus symptoms or if a family member is self-isolating.
- Use hand sanitiser (should be 60% alcohol content) before entering the site and opening any gate locks.
- Take a flask of hot water and wash your hands for 20 seconds after entering closing the lock. Dry with paper towels which are more effective as they remove dead skin scales on which virus and bacteria could sit.
- DO NOT touch your face after using anything that has been touched by other people - use an elbow to work push taps for example.
- Hand sanitise again for 20 seconds, before opening and closing the lock to leave the site.
- Use hand sanitiser after closing the lock.
- Wash hands when you get home.
- Observe "Social Distancing" with each other 2-3 metres preferably more.
- If you take your children to the plot, ensure that they stay within its confines and do not run around on communal paths and spaces.
- Do not share tools.
- **Do not wash your hands in water troughs**

Undertake your own risk assessment around your plot and take appropriate action to reduce hazards and ensure that you don't end up in hospital through your own negligence.

Main areas that are possible points of contagion are communal water troughs, taps, and gate locks. Be extra cautious after using these and hand sanitise regularly.

Some members have become buddies to members who are shielding and our sincere thanks to them, they have done an amazing job keeping peoples plots under control job during the crisis.

Gatherings - Community Activities can resume but reasonable steps must be taken to mitigate the risk of transmission, in line with COVID-19 Secure guidance and including completion of a risk assessment. Group activities must be restricted to 6 or less members. [Click here](#) for the full text from the Covid19 FAQs

However, the government advises that you must continue to follow strict social distancing guidelines when you are with anyone not in your household or your support bubble. [Click here](#) for government guidance about gatherings from the 14 September.

Toilet At Decoy - The National Allotments Society's view is that most allotment associations do not have the capacity to fulfil the necessary requirements to safely open and clean site toilets or communal buildings. Therefore the toilet will remain closed.

Click on the link to read about [self isolating](#)

Click on the link to read about [social distancing](#)

Government advice about the Coronavirus is updated on a regular basis at this link.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

For NHS information and advice [CLICK HERE](#)

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Plot Allocation – We have worked out an almost totally remote way of renting out plots using technology whilst observing social distancing, plots are now being rented out again.

The Shop - The on-line ordering / payment system has worked exceptionally well and getting stock is becoming easier now. Ferai worked tirelessly to get stock into the shop during the period when garden centres were shut. This has resulted in a massive amount of work for him and at the AGM Kevin Johns was voted Assistant Shop Manager. Volunteers have resumed their slots working at the shop, masks and hand sanitiser have been supplied and members are not allowed inside the shop. The National Allotment Society advises that it is now compulsory to wear a mask inside an allotment shop.

Bonfires and BBQs – The ban on bonfires has been lifted, the 4.00PM rule still applies.

South West Water – The demand for water has rocketed over the past three months due to more time being spent gardening and filling paddling pools etc. This has led to South West Water issuing a “5 litres challenge” it is designed to encourage users to limit their daily usage to 5 litres. Reservoir levels, although not yet critical, have been depleted due to the hot dry weather in May. So let's try and do our bit by not over watering.

The local authorities continue to watch what people are doing. Be under no illusion, they will take action if they see members in groups. Compliance with all restrictions on the noticeboards is **essential**. There must be no gathering of more than six people at 2 metres apart on the fields whatsoever. We all have to play our part and keep our distance.

Thanks to all members for their continued diligence during this crisis, it is because every one of you has followed the guidance that the fields remain open.

Stay Safe – Let's all Dig For Recovery rather than for Victory!

Tim Callard (Chairman)

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