



NADCAA

Newton Abbot & District Co-Operative Allotment Association

Registered Company No: 4480485

Covid -19 Guidance Update 08/01/2021

The community spirit on the allotment fields during the pandemic 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.

Although the summer months saw a significant drop in transmission and deaths from Covid 19, the Autumn and Winter months reversed this trend and we currently find ourselves in arguably a worse situation than in March last year during Lockdown One. As you will all be aware infections have risen dramatically and a new more easily transmissible variant is making the danger to everyone far greater, with one in person in every fifty currently having the virus in England.

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.

The National Allotment Society advise me that -

If you break the rules: The police can take action against you if you meet in larger groups. This includes breaking up illegal gatherings and issuing fines (fixed penalty notices).

If people break these rules and someone reports them, then the allotment fields could easily be branded as being a place where the members are meeting up and spreading the disease. I need not tell you that under such circumstances, access to the fields would probably be denied to all of us by the Landlords.

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 and of course if anyone has symptoms of coronavirus or has had a positive test result they should also stay home for 10 days after the symptoms started or the date of the test if there were no symptoms.

Most of the plots that were given up last year were re-let before Christmas. However we have suspended face to face meetings with prospective members for the time being.

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, they should part members of your household or support bubble.

**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>

During the current lockdown you can continue to exercise alone, with one other person or with your household or support bubble. This should be limited to once per day, and you should not travel outside your local area. Our understanding is that work on an allotment can still be classed as exercise.

Please remember to carry on using social distancing and taking hygiene precautions when visiting the site and touching communal surfaces.

So please I ask all of you to follow the guidance,

- Do not attend the plot if you have Covid - 19 symptoms or if a family member is self-isolating.
- Do not attend the plot if you have had Covid - 19 recently.
- Carry hand sanitiser in your vehicle and on your person.
- Use hand sanitiser (should be 60% alcohol content) before entering and exiting the site and opening and closing any gate locks.
- 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. The NHS is already reported to be at breaking point in some areas.

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 - Gatherings. Communal activities should cease for the duration of the lockdown.

Toilet At Decoy - The National Allotment 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](#)

The Shop - The on-line ordering / payment system worked exceptionally well last year. The shop will re-open next month and operate as it did last year, only shop volunteers shop enter the shop.

Bonfires and BBQs – Providing members are sensible the 4.00PM rule still applies.

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Water – The demand for water rocketed in 2019 and Association water bills were almost double what they were the previous year. So harvest your rainwater and 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**. We all have to play our part and keep our distance.

This virus is indiscriminate, I might be writing this guidance for your benefit, but I am at just as much risk as all of you we really are in this together so please our Prime Minister loves the triadic so please - Hands, Face, Space.

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.

Tim Callard (Chairman)

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