

Good Evening,

I hope that this email finds you in good health and that are continuing to follow all of the Emergency Measures on your Noticeboards and the web site.

Last year Administrator Liz Colston asked all committee members to write a job role for themselves in case of an emergency. Little did I know when I wrote my job role that I would have to become an expert on pandemics, give advice on personal hygiene, or to talk on the radio about the current crisis, this just goes to show we never know what is round the corner.

The National Allotment Society has been working overtime this week to try and get the message across that allotment gardeners are acting responsibly, with emails to Michael Gove and the National Police Chief's Council. As a result there has been an update regarding travelling to your plot as follows –

The government is presently advising the population to stay at home and practice social distancing, whilst being allowed to take one form of exercise a day. If working your allotment is to carry on being seen as legitimate exercise then it is imperative that plot-holders follow all the guidelines, allotment sites are as risky as anywhere else.

Although it is perfectly okay and within government guidelines to visit the plot as a household, the NSALG suggest that now is the time to consider working your plot in isolation, i.e. reduce the number of household members on the plot at any one time and shout to your fellow plot-holders and agree to go to the field at different times to reduce the number of members on the field at any one time.

It is vitally important that you follow all the advice about social distancing and hygiene in the points below and not gather together on site.

Driving to the plot - we are aware that in recent days there have been conflicting statements from police forces about driving to your plot. A briefing has now been issued from the College of Policing and the National Police Chief's Council that advises forces to: "Use your judgement and common sense; for example, people will want to exercise locally and may need to travel to do so, we don't want the public sanctioned for travelling a reasonable distance to exercise. We should reserve enforcement only for individuals who have not responded to Engage, Explain, and Encourage, where public health is at risk".

If you need to drive a reasonable distance to get to your plot, then this guidance would suggest that it is permissible to do so. However, please walk to the plot if at all possible

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

This update is on the website home page <https://nadcaa.org.uk/>

The local authorities are watching 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 on the fields whatsoever. We all have to play our part and keep our distance. Steve Garlick and I have spoken several times this week from a distance of around 4 – 5 metres, shout at one another it will be worth it!

A slogan has been suggested by an Allotment Association – "Dig for Recovery rather than Victory". The NAS are there to assist the membership, we are doing all we can to ensure members receive consistent advice by lobbying Central Government on issues that require further clarification.

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

Tim Callard (Chairman)