



NADCAA

Newton Abbot & District Co-Operative Allotment Association

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE 26/03/2020

I am sorry to hit you with another update, but I am sure that you would agree that this is not the time for complacency. All members must follow issued guidelines or risk being excluded from their field. I cannot stress the importance of everyone pulling together on this. Failure to do so may result in all fields being closed, with that in mind we have received updated guidelines from the National Allotment Society and the Landlords have asked that we ensure that you are advised of these measures.

1. Following the Prime Minister's address to the Nation on 23 March 2020, the National Allotment Society is consulting with central government, and at the moment members may still visit their plot, to take daily exercise on their own or with members of your household. 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.
2. Any plot-holder who is self-isolating because a household member is ill with corona-virus should not be visiting the site.
3. We will be displaying this update and further updates on the notice boards. It is important that anyone attending the allotment takes care to stay the appropriate distance from others, avoid body contact and wash hands at taps, do not wash hands or use detergents in the water tanks and please pay attention to notice boards.
4. It is essential that no un-authorized 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 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.
5. We are living through a crisis, the likes of which none of us has experienced before, not since war time has the community spirit that exists on allotment sites been more important. Please remember to look out for one another during these very difficult times.

Members should take the following precautionary measures:

- Keep hand sanitiser in your shed and wash your hands regularly
- Use hand sanitiser before opening and closing any gate locks
- DO NOT gather together for a chat even if you are 2 metres apart [CLICK HERE](#) for guidance
- Observe "Social Distancing" with each other 2-3 metres
- 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
- Minimise the contact with each other for example no handshakes
- Do not wash your hands in water troughs
- All communal facilities should be closed

- [Click here for guidance](#) if you do need to clean an area that has been visited by an infected person.
- The Association Shop – This will close with immediate effect. We will discuss online ordering and payment over the coming days and advise you of a workable system, if we can come up with one.
- If you have livestock on the site and must visit twice a day, take a photograph on your phone of your livestock, based on what is happening in other countries you may eventually have to print off a government form to leave the house but if challenged it would be good to be able to show a photograph of where you are going.
- Plan ahead to ensure that you have food and medication delivered to you during this time
- Stay away from vulnerable individuals such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions as much as possible
- If you display any symptoms of coronavirus stay at home and self-isolate for at least 14 days or until symptoms have passed.
- It is important that any plot-holders over 70 years and those with underlying health issues follow the guidance and information issued by the government.
- If you have a problem or need help then please telephone 07804 122826 or email info@nadcaa.org.uk. We have had offers from several members regarding offering to help members by delivering shopping and medication. Going forward it is recommended that we set up a "Buddy System" so that members who are willing to help others can offer weeding and watering assistance on the plots of gardeners who cannot get to the plot due to long term self-isolation. If you would like to be a "Buddy" to someone then please contact us by email at info@nadcaa.org.uk.
- FYI All National Allotment Society (NAS) meetings and all NADCAA meetings have been cancelled. The NAS will review the situation on the 30th June 2020. This is a worldwide unprecedented and challenging time for so many people and of course the health and safety of members, volunteers, and NAS staff remains the number one priority.
- We must all consider vulnerable families, friends and fellow plot-holders and give assistance where needed.
- 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](#)

I have been invited to speak to Toby Buckland on Radio Devon between 1.00PM and 2.00PM this coming Sunday. Those that know me well will know that I don't find public speaking easy and I don't relish the thought of being on the radio but these are unprecedented times, and needs must.

Once again thank you all for your co-operation, be kind to one another and please stay safe!!

Tim Callard (Chairman)