



Aldworth Parish Council

Covid – 19 Playground Risk Assessment

Aldworth Parish Council is committed to keeping the playground open at a time when the Covid-19 pandemic is still ongoing. The Council recognises the need to provide community facilities to help people enjoy outdoor activity but also recognises that it must provide a safe environment for those using the facilities. However, this is an unmanaged facility, so users of the play equipment are responsible for their own safety and well-being. If any persons are not in agreement with the Parish Council guidance, they should not enter the playground.

This risk assessment has been prepared to keep the playground open during the pandemic and will be kept under regular review to include all government guidelines and requirements on the council.

Release of Covid-19 lockdown of Playground Equipment Safety Risk Assessment

Hazard linked to Covid-19	Potential risks to persons entering the playground	Control measures
Infection Prevention, Cleaning and Safety of all persons		
<p>The equipment and site must be secured against Covid-19 to reduce the risk of virus transmission</p>	<p>There is a direct threat to all persons' health and wellbeing from transmission of Covid-19 outdoor play equipment.</p> <p>Persons can catch the virus from others who are infected in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virus moves from person to person in droplets from the nose or mouth and are spread when a person with the virus coughs or exhales. 	<p>We will ensure that the organisation complies with its duty to provide a safe and healthy workplace/working conditions and safe public facility by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing signage stating what the arrangements of the council are in relation to each site. • Require all persons to practise effective social distancing while in and around the play equipment.

Hazard linked to Covid-19	Potential risks to persons entering the playground	Control measures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The virus can survive for up to 72 hours out of the body on surfaces that persons have coughed on. • People can pick up the virus by breathing in the droplets or by touching contaminated surfaces and then touching their eyes or mouth. 	<p>The following messages will be promoted at the sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cover the mouth and nose with a tissue or sleeve (not hands) when coughing or sneezing. • Put used tissues a bin straight away. • Use hand sanitiser regularly. • Visitors must not touch face, eyes, nose, or mouth whilst in the playground. <p>The following key safety precautions will be undertaken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk assessments will be kept under review to ensure that a safe place of play and exercise is maintained. • All government health advice will be followed.
Social Distancing		
<p>Effective social distancing is a key element in reducing the transmission of Covid-19</p>	<p>Social distancing refers to people being required to maintain a distance from each other of 2 metres wherever possible. Social distancing effectively puts people at a safe range from anyone coughing. The main route of virus transmission is through droplets exhaled or coughed by an infected person.</p>	<p>Aldworth Parish Council has adopted a 2-metre social distancing requirement for its play equipment. All persons will be required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid non-essential contact with others. • Keep a safe distance of at least 2 metres from others wherever possible. • Avoid physical contact. <p>Use of individual pieces of equipment within the play areas is limited to one household at one time.</p> <p>Signs will be placed at the entrance to the areas reminding people of the need to socially distance and of the limits of number of households per piece of equipment.</p>

Hazard linked to Covid-19	Potential risks to persons entering the playground	Control measures
Higher Risk Areas of the Workplace		
<p>Some parts of the playground area may present a higher risk than others – this includes areas such as the gates and hand holds.</p>	<p>Heavily used areas of the play areas are more likely to present an infection risk.</p> <p>It is essential for all persons to use their own hand sanitiser regularly.</p> <p>Community members entering the playground may introduce Covid-19 contamination.</p>	<p>Ensure higher risk high traffic areas of the play areas and outdoor gym equipment are covid-19 secure by applying appropriate safety precautions including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stress to all people the need to follow good hygiene practice at all times whilst in the play area and using the outdoor gym equipment. • Areas with high traffic to be monitored and managed as appropriate. • Users to be required to bring hand sanitiser with them when they visit and to use it frequently and regularly.
Vulnerable and Extremely Vulnerable users of the play areas and outdoor gym equipment		
<p>Some people may have conditions which render them more vulnerable to the dangers of Covid-19</p>	<p>Those who are identified by PHE as being at greater risk from Covid-19 include people in the vulnerable (moderate risk) and extremely vulnerable (high risk) categories.</p>	<p>The following safety and health arrangements will apply to persons who are classed as vulnerable or extremely vulnerable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No vulnerable or extremely vulnerable person should attend the playground during the pandemic; government guidelines and their personal medical advice is to be followed.
Cases of Possible Infection On-site		
<p>People becoming unwell while on-site or a symptomatic person using the site</p>	<p>High risk of transmission</p>	<p>If a person becomes unwell whilst in the playground, with coronavirus symptoms (a new continuous cough or a high temperature) they must go home and then inform the Parish Council.</p>

Hazard linked to Covid-19	Potential risks to persons entering the playground	Control measures
		<p>When the Council becomes aware that a potentially infected persons has used the play area the following actions will be taken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The specific area/equipment will be closed for at least 72 hours. Re-opening will be subject to Parish Council decision.
Record keeping		
<p>Hazards are created when tasks are not undertaken and identified risks not actioned</p>	<p>The Council needs to be proactive in taking appropriate action at the right time and in the right place in order to protect all persons</p>	<p>An action log will be kept of all actions taken to deal with issues identified.</p>
Information		
<p>Hazards are caused by lack of information or inaccurate information being circulated</p>	<p>The pandemic has been accompanied by a large amount of official guidance, which requires interpretation. There is also misinformation, rumour and “fake news” or “myths”. If these are allowed to gain traction within the community, they can obscure and confuse vital health and safety measures.</p>	<p>The following safety information arrangements will be applied to mitigate risks caused by misinformation and no information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure the safety and wellbeing of everyone strategies will be based on accurate information and everyone will be given consistent, simple, and clear messages. • The Clerk to the Parish Council will monitor official advice carefully and update all procedures as required. • Councillors will be briefed on any changes to the guidance. • Signage will be placed at appropriate places providing information for the specific play area and outdoor gym equipment. The signage will provide instruction based on this risk assessment.

<i>Hazard linked to Covid-19</i>	<i>Potential risks to persons entering the playground</i>	<i>Control measures</i>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Parish Council's website will provide safety information as per this risk assessment.• The safety messages will also be placed on the Parish Council's social media sites.