



COVID-19 and Outdoor Learning with The Ernest Cook Trust

The health and wellbeing of our visitors and staff are our top priority. We have studied the Government and UK Health Security Agency guidance and have put procedures in place to ensure that our locations and sessions are as COVID-secure as possible.

Research has shown that while COVID-19 can be transmitted outdoors the chances are significantly reduced as a result of air movement that disperses and dilutes the virus, the degrading impact of ultraviolet light and the greater space which makes maintaining distance from other people easier. However, it is important that we keep taking precautions to prevent the spread of the virus.

What we have done

We have carried out a COVID-19 risk assessment and shared the results with the people who visit and work here. We have implemented handwashing, hygiene and cleaning procedures in line with guidelines and are following national guidance from the Government and the Health and Safety Executive.

Wherever possible hand washing using soap and running water will be provided. In other situations hand gel with a minimum alcohol content of 60% or hand wipes will be provided. In both instances regular opportunities to clean hands will be incorporated into the session. Tissues and appropriate disposal facilities will be provided for staff and visitor use.

Equipment and appropriate areas of ECT owned learning locations (toilets and high-touch areas) will be cleaned between sessions. Public spaces and public facilities will be cleaned by those who manage the space, not ECT staff.

The Ernest Cook Trust Learning Team is participating in voluntary Lateral Flow self-testing for COVID-19 following asymptomatic testing advice for the general population. However, Outdoor Learning leaders will continue to self-test before sessions with groups from high risk settings, including Special Schools, Alternative Provision and SEND units in mainstream schools, in accordance with the Operational Guidance for these settings.

What we need you to do

To make your time with us as safe as possible please comply with the following guidance at all times:

- Ensure that no participant is permitted to attend a session with us if:
 - they have one or more [coronavirus \(COVID-19\) symptoms](#)
 - they have had a positive test for COVID-19
- Have an Action Plan agreed with your setting and transport provider in case any participant should develop COVID-19 symptoms during the course of the visit. Anyone displaying or developing symptoms will be asked to return home. Consider increasing your adult:child ratio in case of this eventuality.



- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water or use the hand sanitiser/wipes provided and follow good hygiene whilst coughing and sneezing.
- Avoid unnecessary hand contact and touching of eyes, mouth and nose.
- Follow any signage around the site and any directions from staff.
- Inform The Ernest Cook Trust on 07967 591176 if anyone in the visiting group develops COVID-19 symptoms in the 48 hours following a session with us, or returns a positive test.

Please also ensure that your group includes a qualified first aider and bring a first aid kit. While all of our Outdoor Learning leaders are qualified in Outdoor First Aid, we ask that your first aider takes primary responsibility for administering any first aid required during the session.