



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 Public Health England guidance and have put procedures in place to ensure that our locations and sessions are as Covid-secure as possible. **We have decided to keep adhering to these procedures and Covid Risk Assessments post 19th July, to keep everyone safe.**

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 with us. We have implemented handwashing, hygiene and cleaning procedures in line with guidelines and are following national guidance from the Government, Public Health England 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 will be cleaned between sessions and groups. Only school groups from a single setting and will be permitted to attend on any given day. All public events will be delivered in line with government guidance. Any sessions and events that occur on public land will be made clear in communication.

The Ernest Cook Trust Learning Team is participating in voluntary Lateral Flow self-testing for Covid-19 and our staff will continue to maintain distance from session participants as far as practicably possible. If events make use of indoor venues, the Covid procedures, mask wearing guidelines and social distancing guidance from each venue will be communicated.

What we need you to do (*you refers to the parent/career/ lead teacher/ group leader*)

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

- Ensure that you hold the contact details of all participants that attend the session, including adult helpers, in case track and trace needs to be undertaken. Adults and participants over the age of 16 will be encouraged to sign in using the NHS Test and Trace App and a QR code provided by the Outdoor Learning Officer.
- 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
 - they have been told to isolate by NHS Test and Trace or by their public health protection team



- they have been identified as a close contact of someone with confirmed Covid-19, unless they are covered by one of the exemptions to self-isolation:
 - they are fully vaccinated
 - they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
 - they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved Covid-19 vaccine trial
 - they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons
 - they are legally required to quarantine because they have arrived/returned from a red or amber list country in the 10 days prior to the visit.
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- 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 mask wearing guidance when indoors.
 - Follow any signage around the site and any directions from staff.
 - Inform The Ernest Cook Trust on 07967 591 176 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. Parents and careers are encouraged to bring a small first aid kit with them. 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.