

Corona Virus Policy

The Nature Box knows how important our community's health is. This is why we have developed a policy specifically for the Corona Virus, particularly focusing on how to stay healthy outdoors.

The beauty of Forest School is that we are outdoors, in the fresh air and nature. We want to ensure we are providing a service that is fun and celebrates our community whilst making sure everyone who attends is safe.

**What is Corona Virus/Covid-19?**

Here are a few facts about the Corona Virus, from Public Health England, with advice for educational settings and organisations working with children:

* Symptoms of the virus include, cough, high temperature and in a worst-case scenario shortness of breath.
* People in our community that are most at risk of contracting the virus are older people (over 60) and people with underlying medical problems, such as low immune system, respiratory conditions, or general poor health.
* Children can potentially be carriers of the virus and can show no symptoms.
* The best form of prevention is washing hands regularly, good hygiene practices and avoiding contact with people who have a higher risk of contracting the virus.

**Preventing the Spread – Our Families**

In light of this advice, we are advising that our Forest School Families:

* do not attend sessions if they have had any symptoms of the virus in the last 7 days or has come into contact with someone who has.
* Due to our groups being filled with children, we advise that anyone who fits into the higher risk group to self-assess the risk of attending, and not attend with their child/grandchild if they feel they could be at a further risk.
* If you are caring for someone in a higher risk group, please self-assess attendance, and make sensible decisions accordingly.

**What to do if a child becomes unwell during a session**

* Check symptoms with guidance from government
* If staff suspect Corona Virus, child will be isolated from other children
* Parents will be contacted immediately.
* If breathing difficulties, an ambulance will be called
* Emergency risk assessment will be immediately created
* All other children attending will be informed of prevention measures and parents will be immediately informed to come and collect their children.
* Cleaning policy will be followed on all equipment. Please see below.

**What to do if a staff member becomes unwell**

* Parents will be informed and asked to collect immediately.
* 111 will be contacted and guidance will be followed
* Regular updates on future session availability will be communicated through our Facebook page.
* Cleaning policy will be followed on all equipment
* All who have attended sessions will be informed and advised to self – isolate in accordance with government policy.

**What to do if someone has had contact with someone who has shown symptoms of Corona Virus**

* Will be advised not to attend our session
* Guidance and information can be passed on if requested
* Hygiene policies in place will be communicated with attendees
* Good communication with attendees and transparency with situations will be our priority
* Self-assessment is advised.
* Although we will take every measure to follow hygiene practices and keep attendees and their parents/carers safe, it is the attendee’s responsibility to self -assess and manage personal risk.

**What to do if someone has travelled in the last 14 days to/from another country**

* Will be advised not to attend our session
* Guidance and information can be passed on if requested
* Hygiene policies in place will be communicated with attendees
* Good communication with attendees and transparency with situations will be our priority
* Self-assessment is advised.
* Although we will take every measure to follow hygiene practices and keep attendees and their parents/carers safe, it is the attendee’s responsibility to self -assess and manage personal risk.

**Cleaning of site and equipment**

* All equipment used by The Nature Box will be sterilised before and after session.
* Rooms and furniture used during sessions will be cleaned before and after sessions, including door handles, taps and other objects that are regularly touched.
* Hand washing facilities will be made available close to our activity stations
* All attendee’s will be advised to wash their hands at beginning and throughout session
* Information sheets will be provided around the site
* Wipes will be available at high risk activities e.g. pond area so that attendees are able to clean equipment during sessions.
* All cooking equipment is kept in a sterile and clean environment.
* Waste will be disposed of after each session, bins will be allocated where possible at each activity station
* We will continue to raise hygiene awareness throughout the session.
* A monitoring form will be completed at each session to show that hygiene practices have been followed.
* The Nature Box will work closely with other facility users to ensure all hygiene practices, risk assessments and policies are being followed.

**Other Considerations we will take**

* 2m distance of all people involved in our sessions at all times
* Staff to be provided with PPE
* Arrival and departure procedures amended to ensure limited amount of people enter the site.
* First Aid equipment is stored in sterile wrapping.
* Cold compresses if needed to be sterilised with a sterile wipe before use.
* Disposable cups will be used at our sessions during the time of the pandemic.
* Policies will be reviewed regularly in line with changing government guidance and policy.

We will be monitoring the situation, following government guidance, and adapting practice when needed.

Useful links for more information:

[https://www.gov.uk/gov…/publications/coronavirus-action-plan](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-action-plan?fbclid=IwAR19A88zLKaJVca62bMq8oMCHKtCrpHZ7Ccq1c4oC1cPRcP80_vR4oC3OMk)

[https://www.cdc.gov/coronavir…/2019-ncov/…/share-facts-h.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/share-facts-h.pdf?fbclid=IwAR26yT6BCH_VfwpB_iRDqjSCnWrsgMmLFhqphxNWvYDAJvUcJMBLR9vP3uA)

[https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/?fbclid=IwAR3vNWvZilHpvzbByM-g084LdrM9EwF-Q5Nhfiql_QFYkG5oemzXo-Bw03s)