

# Risk assessment for Reopening Play Areas and Covid 19.

In early 2020 Covid 19 emerged as a world wide threat to human health. It was classified as a Pandemic by WHO. Great Ouseburn Parish Council closed its play areas on 23 March 2020. The government announced that play areas can open from 4 July providing that adequate measures are in place, Great Ouseburn Play area has remained closed for refurbishment up until 27<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

This risk assessment covers the reasonably practicable measures we will put in place to protect the public. It has been written in using the Government guidance and advice from the Associated Play Industry (API). It will, to some extent, be dependant on public co-operation. Where this is not forthcoming, the controls must be reviewed.

**Assessment completed by: David Meakin, Great Ouseburn Parish Council**

**Date of risk assessment: 25 August 2020**

**Review Period: 1 month**

What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed, and how?	What are you already doing	Do you need to do anything else to control this risk?	Action by who?	Action by when?	Done
Play Area users Spreading or Contracting Covid19.	Play Area users Contamination and infection through common touch points.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anyone with symptoms should not use childrens play areas.</li> <li>• Anyone classed as clinically extremely vulnerable (Shielding) should not use childrens play areas.</li> <li>• Ensure all guidance and information is available and on display and followed as outlined below.</li> </ul>	<p>Inform the public of the controls in place.</p> <p>Continue to monitor Government guidance for updates.</p>	Great Ouseburn Parish Council (PC)	27 August 2020 Review after 1 week	
Managing Safe Access and Use - within enclosed play spaces	Play Area users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide public information (signage) to outline access and use of enclosed spaces which may include:</li> <li>• 2m social distancing at all times</li> <li>• Own provision for sanitising/washing hands and common touch points where possible before and after use in accordance with Government Guidance.</li> <li>• Consider the amount of time within the play area to allow any queue to have their turn.</li> <li>• Maximum number of users within play space.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any operational routes (one way systems) around the equipment and entrance/exits to be reviewed.</li> <li>• High use play areas to have entry and exit systems.</li> </ul>	PC	27 August 2020 Review after 1 week	
Safe queuing into play space	Play Area users Contamination and infection	<p>Provide signage re adhering to social distancing protocols i.e. keep 2 metres apart.</p> <p>Identify where one-way access points could work.</p>		PC	27 August 2020 Review after 1 week	
Internal Distancing Measures	Play Area users Contamination and infection	Close off or lock any equipment that would mean not maintaining a 2 metre distance whilst in use.		PC	27 August 2020 Review after 1 week	
Internal benches	Play Area users Contamination and infection	Benches and picnic benches to be assessed whether they are too close. Individual benches to be placed out of service with tape where social distancing cannot be implemented.	Consider making gates one-way to prevent pinch points.	PC	27 August 2020 Review after 1 month	

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Food and drink	Play Area users Contamination and infection	Advise that no food or drink to be consumed within play space.	Review and revise based on usage.	PC	27 August 2020 Review after 1 month	
Lack of good hand hygiene	Play Area users	Provide instructions on best practice for hand washing/sanitising (display guidelines) – and as per API, communicate through signage that responsibility sits with parents to bring wipes / sanitiser for their themselves / children.		PC	27 August 2020 Review after 1 month	
Undetected faults, hazards and vandalism	Play Area users	Thoroughly inspect and maintain the playground before reopening to remove hazards and reduce the risk.	Continue to inspect on a monthly basis as usual.	PC	27 August 2020 Review after 1 month	
Unknown hazards hidden in long grass	Play Area users	The play area has been cut ahead of opening and checked.	Standard grass cutting and clearing re established	PC	27 August 2020 Review after 1 month	
Slips and trips on grass cuttings	Play Area users	The play area has been cut ahead of opening.	Standard grass cutting and clearing re established	PC	27 August 2020 Review after 1 month	
Operational Risks	Play Area users	Availability of equipment may require a considered reactive approach to meet the evolving needs of the COVID-19 situation, such as; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further equipment being made unavailable</li> <li>• Possible return to lockdown (could be localised) at short notice.</li> </ul>		PC	27 August 2020 Review after 1 month	
Too many visitors in the play area at once	Play Area users Contamination and infection whilst passing or queuing for equipment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reminding about social distancing. 2 metres</li> <li>• Encourage people to come back later if the playground is busy.</li> <li>• Limit visits to 1 hour</li> <li>• Max no. of persons in each play space</li> </ul>	<p>Monitor and consider setting a maximum number of people in the in each play area to allow safe social distancing.</p> <p>If overcrowding becomes an issue, consider temporary closure or limit access to play area</p>	PC	27 August 2020 Review after 1 week	

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Communication overview		Using signs and posters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to promote and remind users, parents, guardians and carers of the need for social distancing.</li> <li>• To encourage parents to bring hand sanitiser gel or wipes to clean their children's hands</li> <li>• to encourage hand hygiene and washing/sanitising hands more often than usual, for 20 seconds using soap and water or approved gel and foam sanitiser, particularly at the beginning and end of play</li> <li>• to remind visitors to keep their visits to 1 hour.</li> <li>• Maximum visitors per play area..</li> <li>• to advise users not to touch their faces, and to cough or sneeze into a tissue or arm when a tissue is not available</li> <li>• to remind adults and children not to put their mouths on equipment or their hands in their mouths</li> </ul>		PC	27 August 2020 Review after 1 month	

You should review your risk assessment if you think it might no longer be valid (e.g. following an accident in the workplace or if there are any significant changes to hazards, such as new work equipment or work activities)