



Leek Wootton & Guy's Cliffe Parish Council
Risk Assessment – Leek Wootton Children's Playground

Name and Description of Task: Safe opening of play areas

COVID19, classified as a pandemic virus by the World Health Organisation (WHO) in March 2020, Covid19 is a new, contagious, coronavirus for which there is no current personal immunity within the population or vaccine available. COVID-19 is a contagious disease that can be fatal. The disease can be transmitted from human to human either by inhalation or contact with the eyes, nose and mouth. Information from the WHO, PHE and the NHS has cascaded down onto current UK industries and business sectors by a series of directives and interventions from the UK government. Government and PHE information and guidance has been and is subject to change as new and increased interventions are put into place to control the spread of the virus and this Risk Assessment has been created as a result of new government guidance with specific regard to the opening of;

- Play Areas
- Any other ancillary items or other features of the Play Area

COVID-19 Secure measures taken by LW&GCPC will be in line with government guidelines so far as is practicable and feasible to do so. With the challenge of an unsupervised playground it would not be possible to create a sterile play environment to eliminate all the risk of transmission of coronavirus.

The key messages of; Using hand sanitiser before, during and after using the play area, Social distancing, come back later if busy, wash your hands thoroughly when you get home and take your litter home will be communication to the public to make them aware of the risks, and that equipment will not be sanitised regularly. The aim is to encourage people to bring their own wipes to promote cleaning of equipment by users, parents, guardians and carers, particularly where there are clear touch points such as swing rockers, see saws, machine handles and to bring hand sanitiser gel or wipes to clean their children's hands.

In additional we will advise members of the public who are in the 'at risk' category not to use the equipment.

Date of Assessment: Monday, 13 July 2020

Information Gathered From: Government departments and agencies, Health & Safety and Environmental regulators, industry associations and bodies, Public Health England, National Health Service, RBC corporate management teams and departments, Parks & Grounds Site Management Team and Safety & Resilience Team. Register of Play Inspectors International (RPII), Play Safety Forum, the Play Inspection Company, Local Government Chronicle

In particular the latest Guidance available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-managing-playgrounds-and-outdoor-gyms/covid-19-guidance-for-managing-playgrounds-and-outdoor-gyms>

RPII:

<https://www.playinspectors.com/news/statement-on-the-governments-announcement-on-the-reopening-of-outdoor-playgrounds-on-july-4th-2020/>

Play Safety Forum:

<https://playsafetyforum.files.wordpress.com/2020/06/covid-and-childrens-play-psf-1.pdf>



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What are the hazards and how might they be harmful	Who might be harmed and how many	Current Control Measures	Recommended Improved Control Measures	Action
<p>Direct threat to members of public from transmission of coronavirus from person to person when re-opening play areas. When Using play areas and outdoor gyms</p>	<p>Members of Public</p>	<p>Play areas are currently Closed. Signage displayed on equipment 'play area' closed.</p>	<p>Government guidance available from https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-managing-playgrounds-and-outdoor-gyms/covid-19-guidance-for-managing-playgrounds-and-outdoor-gyms</p> <p>Guidance on children's play and leisure – promoting a balanced approach from HSE https://www.hse.gov.uk/entertainment/childrens-play-july-2012.pdf</p> <p>Provide visible information to remind public of PHE Guidance by Signage at entrances and/or around play areas to promote –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Compliance with social distancing measures. 2. 'Waiting your turn' signs 3. 'Too busy' advise to return later if to many users 4. Use hand sanitiser frequently and 'Wash hands when you get home' to encourage good hygiene practices 5. 'please take your litter home' <p>Recommendations to encourage those using the play area</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. to only have 1 family member accompanying a child 2. Promote cleaning of equipment by users, parents, guardians and carer's 3. Parents to bring hand sanitiser gel or wipes to clean their children's hands 4. Remind adults and children not to put their hands in their mouths if unclean 5. Promote and remind users, parents, guardians, and carers of the need for social distancing 6. Promote handwashing 	<p>Yes</p>



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			7. Promote stay at home if feeling unwell and do not attend playground	
Use of Equipment by unsupervised children	Members of Public	None	No control measures are available to the Parish Council so this risk is unfortunately unmitigated. PC Notice Boards to encourage those using the play area to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Remind adults and children not to put their hands in their mouths if unclean 2. Promote and remind users, parents, guardians, and carers of the need for social distancing 3. Promote handwashing 	
Failure of equipment from prolonged period of play area closures	Members of public	Annual RoSPA Safety Inspection last completed: 3 October 2019	Visual inspection carried out to check the operation and stability of the equipment. Restrict use of equipment or access to faulty equipment until repaired or removed from site.	