

RHSO maintenance day CoViD-19 policy

First written: 19th June 2020 by Rob Richardson
Last reviewed: 24nd September 2020 by Rob Richardson
(updated UK guidance on outdoor gatherings)
Next review due: 1st October 2020, or when government guidelines change

This policy covers the extra measures to ensure our maintenance days comply with the UK government's CoViD-19 guidelines and that volunteers can work safely during that time. This is in addition to the standard maintenance day risk assessment. This assessment should be reviewed at the start of every month during the CoViD-19 regulations and when government guidelines change.

Compliance with UK government guidelines

- All activities take place outdoors.
- No more than 6 persons to gather together at any time.
- Social distancing according to UK government guidelines (currently 2m) to be implemented unless volunteers are from the same household.
- Persons with CoViD-19 symptoms (including fever, cough, loss of sense of smell) should not attend.

Control measures to mitigate against SARS-CoV2 transmission

- To reduce the need for instruction, maintenance days are to be limited to regular volunteers only.
- Working groups to be limited to two persons, unless from same household.
- Working groups to consist of members of the same household where possible.
- If working groups involve people from different households, social distancing guidelines (currently 2 m) must be followed at all times.
- If a task cannot be performed safely under these measures, it should be delayed. If the task is urgent (e.g., there is a safety risk to the general public), a separate risk assessment should be conducted.
- Alcohol hand gel to be provided by RHSO.
- Volunteers advised to bring own gardening gloves / secateurs.
- If gloves issued by RHSO, these are to be kept in a labelled bag and not reused by another volunteer for 72 hours.
- Other tools to be cleaned with a suitable anti-viral cleaner after use or before use by another volunteer.
- Tools should not be shared between volunteers from different households without cleaning between uses.