

## RHSO maintenance day CoViD-19 policy

First written: 19<sup>th</sup> June 2020 by Rob Richardson  
Last reviewed: 25<sup>th</sup> February 2021 by Rob Richardson  
Next review due: 28<sup>th</sup> March 2021, 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

UK Government guidelines (taken from <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home> on 9th Feb 2021) state that:

*You must not leave, or be outside of your home except where necessary. You may leave the home to:*

- ! *go to work, or provide voluntary or charitable services, if you cannot reasonably do so from home*

There appear to be no restrictions on what counts as “voluntary or charitable services”.

RHSO maintenance activities can continue under these rules. Relevant government guidelines and other considerations are:

- ! All activities take place outdoors.
- ! 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 only re-issued to the same volunteer on future occasions.
- ! Other tools to be cleaned with a suitable anti-viral cleaner before and after use.
- ! Tools should not be shared between volunteers from different households without cleaning between uses.