

Covid 19 Risk Assessment: Ulleskelf Childrens Play Area

Ulleskelf Parish Council (UPC) is committed to re-opening its play equipment on the **26th July 2020** at a time when the Covid-19 pandemic is still ongoing. The Council recognises the need to provide community facilities to help people enjoy outdoor activity but also recognises that it must provide a safe environment for those using the facilities.

This risk assessment has been prepared for the re-opening of the play equipment on the 26th July 2020 and will be kept under regular review to include all government guidelines and requirements on the council.

Hazard linked to Covid-19

Potential risks to persons entering play areas and using the equipment

Control measures

Infection Prevention, Cleaning and Safety of all persons

The equipment and site must be secured against Covid-19 to reduce the risk of virus transmission

There is a direct threat to all person's health and wellbeing from transmission of Covid-19 in the play areas and on the equipment.

Persons can catch the virus from others who are infected in the following ways:

Virus moves from person to person in

droplets from the nose or mouth and are spread when a person with the virus coughs or exhales. The virus can survive for up to **72 hours** out of the body on surfaces that persons have coughed on. People can pick up the virus by breathing in the droplets or by touching contaminated surfaces and then touching their eyes or mouth

We will ensure that UPC complies with its duty to provide a safe and healthy public facility by:

Providing signage stating what the arrangements are. Require all persons to practise effective social distancing while in and around the play areas. The following messages will be promoted at the sites: **Parental Supervision at all times. Cover the mouth and nose with a tissue**

or sleeve (not hands) when coughing or sneezing. Put used tissues in the bin straight away. Bring and use hand sanitiser to regularly clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects, do not touch face, eyes, nose or mouth whilst in the play area.

The following **key safety precautions** will be undertaken: Risk assessments will be kept under review to ensure that a safe place of play and exercise is maintained

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Control measures

All government health advice will be followed

The play equipment will be cleaned each morning and after we are advised of a contamination.

Social Distancing

Effective social distancing is a key element in reducing the transmission of Covid-19

Social distancing refers to people being required to maintain a distance from each other of **2 metres** wherever possible. Social distancing effectively puts people at a safe range from anyone coughing. The main route of virus transmission is through droplets exhaled or coughed by an infected person.

The Council has adopted a **2 metre** social distancing requirement for its play areas. All persons will be required to: ***Avoid non-essential contact with others. Keep a safe distance of at least 2 metres from others wherever possible. Avoid physical contact***

Use of individual pieces of equipment within the play areas is limited to one household/Social Bubble at one time.

A maximum number of persons permitted in the park at any one time is 8 (including Parent/Guardians) This number will be adjusted as Government advice changes.

Signs will be placed at the entrance to the area reminding people of the need to socially distance and of the limits of number of households/bubble per piece of equipment.

Higher Risk Areas of Outdoor Play

Some parts of the play areas may present a higher risk than others – this includes areas such as the **gates and hand holds**.

Heavily used areas of the play areas are more likely to present an infection risk.

It is essential for all persons to provide and use hand sanitiser regularly.

Ensure higher risk high traffic areas of the play areas and equipment are covid-19 secure by applying appropriate safety precautions including:

Stress to all users, the need to follow good hygiene practice at all times whilst in the play area and using the equipment **(with signage in place)**

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With more than one person using equipment there is an increased risk of people coughing and touching equipment, handles and gates

Users entering the play areas and using the equipment may introduce covid-19 contamination

Areas with high traffic – users to not enter the park if busy and social distancing is not possible. Users to be required to bring hand sanitiser with them when they visit and to use it frequently and regularly

Vulnerable and Extremely Vulnerable users of the play areas and equipment

Some people may have conditions which render them more **vulnerable** to the dangers of Covid-19

Those who are identified by PHE as being at greater risk from Covid-19 include people in the vulnerable (moderate risk) and extremely vulnerable (high risk) categories

The following safety and health arrangements will apply to persons who are classed as **vulnerable or extremely vulnerable**:

Recommendation that this group of users use the park at quiet periods to enable them to comply with the government health recommendations

No vulnerable or extremely vulnerable person should attend the play area during busy periods or use the equipment during the pandemic without liaising with government guidelines and their personal medical advice is to be followed.

Health and Monitoring Levels

Potential monitoring issues

Volunteers and UPC members may get sick with Covid-19 or be absent when required

Play areas will be cleaned daily before opening, as normal and records kept on file.

These facilities are not supervised so responsibility lays with the user of outdoor play equipment under Parents/Guardians supervision.

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(signage in place to advise)

People becoming unwell while on-site or a-symptomatic person using the site

High risk of transmission

The specific area/equipment will be closed and cleaned. All surfaces that the symptomatic person may have come into contact with must be cleaned and disinfected, especially objects visibly contaminated with body fluids and all potentially contaminated high contact areas such as gates and handholds. Volunteers and UPC members must wear appropriate PPE. Waste from cleaning of areas where possible cases have been (including disposable cloths and tissues) should be “double-bagged” and tied off; the waste must be placed in a secure holding area for **72 hours** before being disposed of by burning.

If a person becomes unwell whilst in the play area or when using the equipment, with coronavirus symptoms (a new continuous cough or a high temperature) they must go home and then inform the **UPC, Gary Burton immediately on 07809 441789 or Rachel Glynn on 07908 823407**

When UPC becomes aware that a potentially infected person has used one of the play areas and/or equipment the following actions will be taken:

Park will be closed for 72 hours and cleaning carried out.

Record keeping

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Hazards are created when tasks are not undertaken and identified risks not actioned

UPC needs to be proactive in taking appropriate action at the right time and in the right place in order to protect all persons

Playground cleaning completed daily prior to opening at 09.00. Safety checks are carried out monthly. Each check includes the identification of issues and concerns and that these must be passed to UPC and/or Park Manager (Gary Burton) for action.

An action log will be kept of all actions taken to deal with issues identified, as normal practice.

Information

Hazards are caused by lack of information or inaccurate information being circulated

The pandemic has been accompanied by a large amount of official guidance, which requires interpretation. There is also misinformation, rumour and “fake news” or “myths”. If these are allowed to gain traction within the community they can obscure and confuse vital health and safety measures.

The following safety information arrangements will be applied to mitigate risks caused by misinformation and no information.

To ensure the safety and wellbeing of everyone strategies will be based on accurate information and everyone will be given consistent, simple and clear messages (**signage**). The Parish Council will monitor official advice carefully and update all policies and procedures as required. **Signage** will be placed at appropriate places providing information for the specific play area and equipment. This will provide instruction based on this risk assessment. The safety messages will also be placed on UPC web site and Nextdoor Ulleskelf.

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2 x UPC staff are qualified ROSPA safety checkers and the checks are completed monthly as normal. **The next ROSPA inspection take place in September.**

Guidance for families that plan to visit a playground safely:

- If the playground facility you visit has not yet officially been opened (09:00hrs), please do not attempt to use, or access the equipment or area. **Parents/Guardians must be present to ensure guidelines are adhered to and Children supervised.**
- Do not remove any temporary barriers/tape in the playground or plastic coverings that have been placed to put them out of use.
- Follow the current social distance guidelines when visiting and encourage your children to do the same.
- If the playground is busy, consider coming back at a later time. Talk to your children about this possibility before visiting. Try and keep play time to 30 minutes to allow others to use.
- Wash your and your children's hands before and after visiting. **Take hand sanitiser and use regularly to clean hands and surfaces.** Wear facemasks and surgical gloves to increase protection.
- Follow and adhere to all current government advice in addition to the above guidance and pay attention to all information & signage
- The playground is designed for toddlers and children up to 12 years old. It is not a meeting place for teenagers, loitering can not be tolerated and children without a Parent/Guardian will be politely asked to move on.
- Hand Sanitiser will be made available for children to use to sanitise under supervision of their parents/guardians as well as for supervised equipment cleaning.