

Covid Secure Risk Assessment – Classroom Outreach

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Introduction

The Centre runs 2-hour Classroom Outreach sessions for up to 1 school bubble at a time, as per UK government guidance. These sessions are booked in advance and contact details including email and phone number of the school are required. The Centre staff meet the participants at a prearranged time at the school and the whole session takes place within the classroom. Details of Covid-safety precautions for each session are available prior to booking.

Schools are asked to alert CHCC if anyone in their group is displaying symptoms of Covid-19 and the Centre will issue a full refund or rearrange the session.

The Centre has public liability insurance cover of £5 million.

The Classroom Outreach session involves a large proportion of group work. Group sizes will be kept small, and will work as 'mini bubbles' for the duration of the session. Equipment will be shared only within these mini bubbles. Hand sanitisation when sharing equipment will be encouraged. Centre staff will not touch any equipment used by the school and vice versa without prior hand sanitisation. After the session, all equipment will be quarantined and thoroughly cleaned ready for the next use.

Social distancing will take place throughout the event and the Centre staff have the right to end the session if they feel that this is not being adhered to. A distance of 2m between the Centre staff and participants will be maintained, but this distance can be reduced to 1m+ for short periods. The Centre staff will carry a face covering and can wear this during the session if requested to. Hand sanitiser will be regularly used by Centre staff.

Covid-19

- The novel Corona virus is a potentially fatal viral illness which can be transmitted from person to person as well as to and from inanimate objects.
- The Department of Health estimates that between 25 -50% of cases are asymptomatic so individuals may be unaware that they are contagious.
- On average, it takes 5 days before people display symptoms, during which time they are contagious (presymptomatic transmission).
- The virus can survive on surfaces for several days and spreads more easily in indoor environments.
- There are many unknowns about this virus, but there is growing evidence that some strains can cause severe symptoms and may leave a significant number of sufferers with long term physical and/or neurological damage. The most prevalent strains to date in 2022 are far less severe.
- The vaccination programme should reduce the symptoms and spread, but does not negate the need for caution.

Risks

Infection can occur at every point of contact between Centre staff and participants. This can be through airborne particles and or contact with infected surfaces or objects.

Vulnerable groups

Older people are more likely to have severe symptoms (necessitating hospital admission) and to have a significantly higher mortality rate from the virus than the rest of the population. The over 70s are termed clinically vulnerable and the risks rise significantly in over 80s and 90s. Men are more at risk than women and BAME people are particularly vulnerable. Those with certain medical conditions including diabetes, heart, liver or kidney disease, those who are more than 20% overweight, any illness (or treatment) which affects immune system function are especially at risk. Vulnerable people include those shielding others.

Groups of people at risk

Staff

- The Centre employs three full-time managers and two seasonal wardens who are fully trained, first aid at work qualified and are DBS checked.
- All Centre staff are under 45 and there is a lower mortality rate for this age group compared with older individuals.

Volunteers

- The Centre has around 80 volunteers
- The average age of our volunteers puts many at a significantly higher risk of mortality as the over 70s are termed clinically vulnerable
- No volunteers are currently volunteering for Classroom Outreach sessions.

School Bubbles

- Although generally seen to be lowest at risk, most children have not, to date, been offered vaccinations against Covid-19.
- They are from the local area (within 1 hour drive from CHCC).
- They will have varying levels of respect for the virus and social distancing measures.
- Participants will be a range of ages, to include both students and teachers.

Hazard – Risk of infection – Surfaces and object handling

Who is at risk – Managers, Wardens, Volunteers and participants

Control measures	Further action to control risks	Who needs to carry out action	When is action needed by	Action taken date
Personal Protective Equipment for Centre staff	Portable hand sanitiser, nitrile gloves, face masks and a visor will be offered.	Centre staff	Before starting an event the Centre staff should ensure they have adequate PPE	All equipment purchased in July 2020 and available to use.
Personal Protective Equipment for participants	Regular hand sanitisation of participants is encouraged. Face coverings and nitrile gloves to be brought and used at the individuals' discretion.	Participants	School to provide hand washing or sanitiser (and other PPE if choosing to do so) and use regularly.	
Social distancing	Keeping 1m+ apart from participants	Centre staff and participants	Duration of event	
Minimise passing of items between individuals within school group.	School bubble to be split into mini bubbles, with equipment only shared within those groups.	Participants	Hands sanitised before the holder of the object changes.	
Minimise passing of items between school and Centre staff	All equipment quarantined and cleaned after session.	Centre staff	Quarantine equipment for gov. approved time, then thoroughly clean	Cleaning equipment purchased in July 2020 and available from inside the Centre.

Hazard – Risk of infection – participant interaction – Indoors

Who is at risk – Managers, Wardens, Volunteers and participants

Control measures	Further action to control risks	Who needs to carry out action	When is action needed by	Action taken date
Allow just 1 school bubble per session.	School bubble will be split into mini table bubbles of ~6 children, reducing potential cross contamination whilst sharing equipment.	Centre staff to instruct school how many table groups will be required. Teacher to split group into table groups.	Centre staff: At time of booking. Lead Teacher: At start of session.	
Classroom windows opened for ventilation	As per gov. advice, ventilation indoors reduces risk of infection	Teacher	During session	
Personal Protective Equipment for Centre staff	Portable hand sanitiser, nitrile gloves, face masks and a visor will be offered and used at individuals discretion.	Centre staff	Before starting an event the Centre staff should ensure they have adequate PPE	All equipment purchased in July 2020 and available from inside the Centre.
Social distancing	Keeping 1m+ apart	Centre staff and participants	Duration of event	