

Covid Secure Risk Assessment – Rockpool Ramble

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Introduction

The Centre runs 1hr 30min Rockpool Ramble sessions for up to 1 school bubble at a time, as per guidelines from the UK government and our licence from the landowner. These sessions are booked in advance and contact details including email and phone number of the school are required and can be used for the purposes of Test and Trace if necessary. Details of Covid-safety precautions for each session are available prior to booking.

The Warden meets the participants at a prearranged time near the Cobb Gate Car Park in Lyme Regis, by the black metal anchor. The whole session takes place in the outdoor environment. All sessions are tide dependant.

Schools are asked not to attend if anyone in their group is displaying symptoms of Covid-19 and the Centre will issue a full refund.

The Centre has licences from both the National Trust and Parish Council to conduct sessions and has public liability insurance cover of £5 million.

Social distancing will take place throughout the event and the Wardens have the right to end the session if they feel that this is not being adhered to. A distance of 2m between the wardens, volunteers and participants will be maintained, but this distance can be reduced to 1m+ for short periods as the risk of infection is considered to be lower in an outdoor environment. The Wardens and volunteers will carry a face covering and can wear this during the session if requested to.

The Rockpool Ramble 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. Wardens and Volunteers will not touch any equipment used by the school and vice versa. After the session, all equipment will be quarantined and thoroughly cleaned ready for the next use.

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.
- The virus spreads more easily in indoor environments.
- There are many unknowns about this virus, but there is growing evidence that it can cause severe symptoms and may leave a significant number of sufferers with long term physical and/or neurological damage.
- The vaccination programme should reduce the symptoms, but does not negate the need for caution.

Risks

Infection can occur at every point of contact between Wardens, Volunteers 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 wardens who are fully trained, first aid at work qualified and are DBS checked.
- All Wardens 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, but only around 15 are volunteering with schools during the pandemic
- The average age of our volunteers puts many at a significantly higher risk of mortality as the over 70s are termed clinically vulnerable
- The volunteer roles will be interacting with participants from 1 school bubble at a time, and working outdoors

School Bubbles

- Although generally seen to be lowest at risk, younger children have not, to date, been offered vaccinations against Covid-19.
- They will be travelling from different parts of the country with varying levels of infection.
- Children will have varying levels of respect for the virus and social distancing measures.
- The shared facilities at the public toilets in Charmouth could be a major concern for virus transmission.
- 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 – 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 Wardens and Volunteers	Portable hand sanitiser, nitrile gloves, face masks and a visor will be offered.	Warden/Volunteer	Before starting an event the Warden/Volunteer should ensure they have adequate PPE	All equipment purchased in July 2020 and available from inside the Centre.
Personal Protective Equipment for participants	Regular hand sanitisation of participants is encouraged. Face coverings and nitrile gloves to be brought at the individuals' discretion.	Participants	School to bring hand sanitiser (and other PPE if choosing to do so) and use regularly.	
Social distancing	Keeping 1m+ apart from participants	Warden, Volunteer 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 CHCC	All equipment quarantined and cleaned after session.	Wardens	Quarantine equipment for gov. approved time, then thoroughly clean	Cleaning equipment purchased in July 202 and available from inside the Centre.

Hazard – Risk of infection – participant interaction – Outdoors

Who is at risk – 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 bubbles, reducing potential cross contamination whilst sharing equipment.	Warden to instruct school how many mini bubbles will be required. Lead teacher to split group into mini bubbles.	At start of session	
Introductory welcome talk and all activities to be done outside	The entire event now takes place in the outdoor environment where there is a lower risk of infection.	Warden	During session	
Personal Protective Equipment for Wardens	Portable hand sanitiser, nitrile gloves, face masks and a visor will be offered.	Warden and Volunteers	Before starting an event the Warden/Volunteer should ensure they have adequate PPE	All equipment purchased in July 2020 and available from inside the Centre.
Social distancing	Keeping 1m+ apart	Warden, Volunteer and participants	Duration of event	