

Halton with Aughton Parish Council Risk Assessment

COVID-19 RISK ASSESSMENT FOR REOPENING OF PLAY AREAS		Assessment date:	8 th July 2020
Assessed by:	Luke Mills (Parish Clerk)	Review date:	31 st August 2020
<p>Government restrictions due to Covid-19 were relaxed on 4 July 2020 so that playgrounds and outdoor gyms can reopen. Halton with Aughton Parish 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 and maintaining the facilities.</p> <p>This risk assessment has been prepared for the re-opening of the play equipment at the Centre and St Wilfrid's Park and will be kept under regular review to include current government guidelines and requirements on the council.</p> <p>The government guidance includes a requirement to "carry out an appropriate COVID-19 risk assessment". It states that: <i>"Failure to complete a risk assessment which takes account of COVID-19, or completing a risk assessment but failing to put in place sufficient measures to manage the risk of COVID-19, could constitute a breach of health and safety law".</i></p> <p>This risk assessment assesses the key hazards and identifies practicable and reasonable arrangements for minimising each risk.</p>			

HAZARD	WHO IS AT RISK?	POTENTIAL HARM	LEVEL OF RISK	CONTROL MEASURES <i>(to remove hazard; or reduce risk level to an acceptable level)</i>
Equipment out of repair	Public	Equipment failure leads to injury of users or those nearby	MEDIUM	All equipment to be thoroughly inspected by grounds staff prior to re-opening. Annual official playground inspection to be undertaken as soon as possible (17 th August).
Lack of social distancing	Public	<p>The virus may be transmitted through droplets exhaled or coughed by an infected person.</p> <p>Social distancing refers to people being required to maintain an appropriate distance from each other wherever possible.</p> <p>Lack of social distancing increases the risk of transmission.</p>	MEDIUM	<p>All persons will be required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Try and keep a safe distance of at least 2 metres from others wherever possible • Avoid physical contact <p>Use of individual pieces of equipment within the play areas is limited to one household at one time. Request that those using the play area to only have 1 family member accompanying a child.</p> <p>The play areas will be adapted where necessary to enable social distancing to be implemented and maintained. For instance, it may be necessary to remove swing units if guidelines are ignored.</p> <p>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 per piece of equipment. Signs should be both text and pictorial to maximise understanding and promote inclusivity.</p>
Lack of cleaning and hygiene	Public Staff	<p>Scientific advice suggests that the virus can survive for up to several days on some hard surfaces.</p> <p>These risks are reduced when</p>	HIGH	<p>Signage in place on all fences at entrances to play areas outlining:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to wash or sanitise hands • Not to consume food or drink in the play area • Need to wear appropriate face coverings if required. • Need to use litter bins or take away refuse.

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		outdoors, but the virus could survive long enough on frequently used/touched outdoor surfaces to facilitate transmission.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to be patient with other users. <p>It is not considered practical to clean the equipment regularly. Signage should promote hand washing or the use of hand sanitizer as a preventative measure. This message will be repeated on the website and social media</p> <p>Users to be encouraged to bring hand sanitiser with them when they visit and to use it frequently and regularly.</p>
Possible on-site infection	Public Staff	People becoming unwell while on-site or a symptomatic person using the site pose a high risk of transmission	HIGH	<p>If a person becomes unwell whilst in the play area with coronavirus symptoms (a new continuous cough or a high temperature) they must go home and then inform the Council.</p> <p>If the Council becomes aware that a potentially infected person has used one of the play areas and/or outdoor gym equipment the following actions will be taken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The specific area/equipment will be closed • The council will publicise the possible infection via signage and social media • Staff must wear appropriate PPE • All surfaces that the symptomatic person may have come into contact with must be cleaned and disinfected, and all potentially contaminated high contact areas such as gates and handholds • Cleaning staff should use disposable cloths or paper roll and a combined detergent disinfectant solution • Cleaning staff 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 in general waste

Further Control Measures

- Weekly inspection of play areas and replacement of signs/posters

Guidance for families that plan to visit a playground

- If the playground facility you visit has not yet officially been opened, please do not attempt to use, or access the equipment or area.
- Do not remove any temporary barriers to the playground or plastic fencing or unravel any swing seats or cables that may have been secured 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.
- Wash your and your children’s hands before and after visiting. Take hand sanitiser with you and consider taking a bottle of water for if your children’s hands get covered in mud. Ensure your children are using hand sanitiser frequently.
- Follow any guidance specific to the play area, e.g. maximum number of users in the area, only 1 household using an item of equipment at a time.
- Follow and adhere to all current government advice in addition to the above guidance and pay attention to all information signage placed at the entrance gates.