



Returning Volunteers Safely Webinar Question and Answer Transcript

Q = Question C = Comment A = Answer

Q. Alison: Any guidance on updating volunteers risk assessments post covid?

A. Nick Hall: I'd be happy to share our risk assessment if it would be of any use? main points are hygiene, social distancing, don't share tools or protective kit, additional first aid kit such as masks etc.

C. Charlie Cutt: We're currently working towards the guidance produced by cfp/apse/midlands parks forum which is great as it suggests what volunteering can occur at what alert level. Is this the main guidance for parks and volunteering or are there others? And if we do not get to Alert Level 2 any time soon, should we deviate from that to accommodate vols? This is the guidance we've been working towards; it's been really useful and provides great clarity for vols (we've adapted to suit our organisation). But I am worried about being so strict on group volunteering not starting til alert level 2: <http://www.cfpuk.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/Managing-Public-Parks-During-COVID-19-FINAL.pdf>

C. Pippa Langford: there is some guidance for volunteers from Sport England - obviously for sports settings but lots of it is applicable for any volunteers

C. Elizabeth Rogers: A link to the Sport England guidance is here: https://www.sportengland.org/campaigns-and-our-work/workforce#coronavirus_and_helping_volunteers_return

Q. David: Are you in a position and do you have the capacity to support the 'test and trace' system. Ie if one of your volunteers are ill...to piece together who has been exposed and to make contact.

A. Helen Connor-Walton: Hi David, yes via our CRM system we are able to do this.

Q. Anonymous: In an outdoor setting is it okay not to have washing hand facilities?

C. Hand washing - We've suggested that volunteers take a bottle of clean water and a bar of soap to wash their hands while out and about... having provision for cleanliness doesn't necessarily mean access to running water or toilets.

Q. Christina: Brew time - We are going to ask our volunteers to bring their own tea/coffee flasks but do you have any advice for brew time? Did I see a picture of individually wrapped biscuits/ chocolate bars?

A. Helen Connor-Walton: We will be encouraging our volunteers to bring with them their own brew kit at present. Chocolate has always been a long standing resource :-)
For us its about also supporting the social element of brew time while our common rooms at Visitor centres are unable to be opened.(Christina (Unverified) asked "Helen - Brew time - We are going to ask our volunteers to bring their own tea/coffee flasks but do you have any advice for brew time? Did I see a picture of individually wrapped biscuits/ chocolate bars?")

Q. Rachel Hardy: Are you allowing the restart of non FC group visits on the FC Estate? Are you/will you apply the same RA & SSoW requirements from such 3rd party groups? Thank you.

Q. Josef: Bringing volunteers back - How have you limited the number of volunteers coming back?

A. Helen Connor-Walton: Hi, we are allowing the restart of none Forestry England directed volunteers to return along with permitted activity that is none volunteer related, in line with our permission restart guidance. This is however only for permissions which are already in place at present due to volume of permissions we grant and for those which are under 6 individuals. Further guidance on our website.

Q. Kristen: Really like the approach and especially that you want it to give a sense of achievement. Is there a need to maintain & support morale in this too? As well as the practical.

C. Anonymous: We've also been very clear that volunteering is optional and always will be. We know that many of our volunteers are in high risk groups and/or looking after people within those groups. The decision to come back to their 'lone working' roles is down to them and it's clear there is no pressure if they don't feel personally safe. As the presenters have said many desperately want to come back for mental health reasons which is why we have enabled them to come back to some of their roles safely in their own time.

A. Nick Hall: Absolutely - we've had a great response of people signing up to be relief wardens and help us get the Estate fixed up - they are so keen to get back out into the woods, but we are very clear that the work has to be appropriate an safe.

Q. Steven Kell: Insurance - Is anyone aware of difficulties with 3rd Party Public Liability Ins where over 70's and those with specific conditions are not covered due to Covid 19 government guidance?

Q. Anonymous: For All Speakers: Inclusion of Volunteers: Has any of the organisations done enhanced RA for volunteers from BAME communities as the Public Health England

report has highlighted that BAME communities are doubly at risk of Covid. Same with over 70's and people with health issues and disabilities?

A. Nick Hall: As I mentioned most of our volunteers are older and therefore more vulnerable, so we've basically approached it from a point of view of minimal risk - hence no working groups yet, light work only etc. the idea being that it will protect everyone if that makes sense.

A. Helen Connor-Walton: We have created a vulnerable group risk assessment template to support our teams to have a conversation with all our volunteers.