

Considering the Re-Opening of the Playground

8th July 2020

Gov states ‘owner/operator will need to apply this guidance to the facility they are responsible for, depending on the circumstances, layout and design. This will include taking account of factors including size, equipment, and how it is organised, operated, and managed. They will need to consider implementing processes to protect the users of the equipment and the staff responsible for its maintenance and cleaning.’

CPC must carry out a COVID-19 Risk assessment and manage the risk of potential spread of the virus to users of equipment including children, parents/guardians and carers, staff or contractors.

CPC have a legal responsibility to protect staff and others from risk to their health and safety. We need to consider risks faced and do anything reasonably practicable to minimise these risks while realising that it is not possible to completely eliminate the risk of COVID-19.

The risk assessment will be carried out using the guidance from the Government to help inform decisions and consider control measures.

Steps Prior to Opening

Expectations	Notes
Risk Assessment Carry out general risk assessment of play equipment ensuring it is safe to use and risks from damaged or defective equipment are addressed before opening.	To be completed by Rec Working Group
Social distancing needs to be observed: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 metres; or• 1 metre with risk mitigations where 2 metres is not viable	Signs to remind residents
Potential measures <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maximum number of users (if there are that many, go home and come back later)• Booking system• Limiting the number of users on a particular piece of equipment• Limit the number of seats on equipment• Setting a time limit• Create a queuing area outside the playground for those waiting to go in• Create a one-way system	To be considered when assessing risk Not feasible or able to be policed Signs to communicate numbers, request 1 adult with child Remove some swings Not feasible or able to be policed As playground is open, this is not possible, but signage will indicate social distancing.

<p>Cleaning and Hygiene</p> <p>The lifespan of the virus is less outside than it is inside. However, may survive long enough if the playground is well used.</p> <p>It is recommended by Government that equipment is cleaned regularly which would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gates • Any playground equipment • Seating areas • Bins 	<p>Not feasible for the equipment to be cleaned regularly and cannot rely on residents doing so.</p>
<p>Signage for Good Hygiene</p> <p>Consideration given to signage to share the following message:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting cleaning of equipment by parents, guardians and carers (particularly highly used such as rockers, see saw, handles, toddler multiplay) • Encourage bringing hand sanitizer gel and wipes to clean children’s hands • Encourage good hand hygiene as per gov guidelines • Do not touch faces • Cough or sneeze into tissue or arm when tissue not available • Remind adults and children not to put their mouths on equipment or hands in their mouths • Promote and remind users for the need of social distancing 	<p>Cannot rely on residents having the products to hand or cleaning equipment</p> <p>Include on signage</p>
<p>Prohibited actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consumption of food or drink on play equipment or in the playground area is banned • All litter including protective equipment must be disposed of properly in litter bins or taking home if bins are full or not provided. 	<p>Include on signage</p> <p>Include on signage</p>

<p>Information for parents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information should be provided reminding users what expectations there are of children's behaviour while using playground during Covid-19 Remind users / parents of our legal obligations towards all playground users stating that it is at their own risk. 	<p>Signs Online Leaflets Email Through school</p>
<p>Understanding Children with Additional Needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> These children may need more frequent reminders about rules of behaviour in the playground They may need longer periods of adjustment Some may need physical help to move from one piece of equipment to another Unseen disabilities e.g. hearing loss, may mean they are non-responsive to instruction Queuing for apparatus may cause frustration May experience bullying 	<p>Ensure there are more than one sign located around the playground to remind people of their responsibilities and to act as a reminder for children</p> <p>As an unmanned facility it will be down to the parents to police the playground while using</p>
<p>Keeping Staff Safe</p> <p>When carrying out the risk assessment, staff welfare must be taken into consideration and the risks they may be exposed to. This may include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cleaning playground equipment Managing queues or those waiting to use equipment Stewarding equipment to ensure users comply with the rules 	<p>This is not applicable to CPC as the council does not have the capacity to carry out these tasks</p>
<p>PPE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for staff is not generally required for this type of activity. 	<p>Not applicable</p>
<p>Face Coverings for Staff</p> <p>Face coverings are option except for when using public transport and other specific circumstances. Should anyone choose to wear face coverings, it is important they use face coverings properly: washing their hands before putting them on and before and after taking them off. Guidelines to follow include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Washing hands often, following government guidelines Avoid touching face or face covering while wearing a face covering Change face covering if it becomes damp or you've touched it Change and wash your face covering daily Practice social distancing 	<p>This is not applicable to those using the playground. Include link on online information to point residents to advice from Government.</p>