

Forestry England

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Wednesday 18th March 2020

Dear

Thank you for helping us and supporting the nation's forest. Since our email on Friday 13th March we wanted to provide you with a further update about novel coronavirus, now called COVID-19.

You will have seen the UK Government has announced on Monday 16th March new measures around COVID-19 and has advised against all non-essential travel and 'social distancing' measures.

We have taken the decision therefore to **suspend all volunteer activity across the nation's forest with immediate effect**. Please do not attend your volunteer activity from Wednesday 18th March onwards until further notice. We will let you know when volunteer activities are able to resume. We recognise this is a difficult and unsettling time for you, your families and our communities, and suspending your volunteer engagement with the woods and forest you love will be upsetting.

We will look at ways we can keep our volunteer community engaged with the nation's forests over these challenging times. This may be via communication from the member of Forestry England staff who you volunteer with or through digital updates, subject to your communications preferences. These preferences can be updated via the volunteer portal <https://volunteer.forestryengland.uk/login> or by contacting your volunteer supervisor.

We are going to miss the valuable work that you do for us but more than that we are going to miss you and hope you stay well. During this time looking after the nation's forest isn't going to be the same without the amazing volunteers who work alongside us. We hope you stay active and continue to enjoy getting out in the forest, you can still be our eyes and ears and we are always glad to hear from you.

**Connecting everyone
with the nation's forests**



Meanwhile please follow the government and NHS guidelines on COVID-19 which are listed below

NHS 111 online

NHS 111 advice can be found at <https://111.nhs.uk/service/COVID-19/>

Other sources of advice

| Source | Website |
|---|---|
| GOV.UK: UK government response | https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response |
| GOV.UK: Coronavirus: latest information and advice: from Department of Health and Social Care and Public Health England. Updated daily | https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public |
| NHS guidance on coronavirus & FAQs on Coronavirus | https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/ |
| NHS Guidance: How to avoid spreading germs. | https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/ |

Preventative measures to take

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds. Use 70% alcohol-based hand sanitiser if soap and water are not available. Please see [handwashing guide](#).
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact such a kissing, hugging and sharing cups or cutlery with people who are sick.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue or shirt sleeve, not your hands.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces, such as doorknobs, especially if someone is sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.

Keeping in touch

This is also a good opportunity to remind everyone to ensure that their volunteer supervisor has their latest contact details. Please either update these via the online volunteer portal <https://volunteer.forestryengland.uk/login> or if you do not have access please provide these to your volunteer supervisor.



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

We have put together some frequently asked questions which have been coming in from our volunteers, which can be found via this [link](#).

While many of you will cope with the challenge of Coronavirus, if you are struggling and haven't got support at home, please contact us and we will try and find the help you need.

If you do have any further questions please either speak with your volunteer supervisor or email volunteer@forestryengland.uk

Stay safe and we hope to have you back volunteering with us again soon

Kind regards

Forestry England Volunteer Team

