

Volunteer Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) regarding Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Wednesday 18th March 2020 (version 2)

This Q&A picks up on cross cutting corporate issues across the Forestry Commission.

Questions for volunteers:

Q: The government has introduced 'social distancing', what does this mean? Should I come to volunteer?

A: Everybody in the UK has been asked to stop non-essential contact with other people and avoid all unnecessary travel. This is known as social distancing.

- People should work from home wherever possible
- All unnecessary travel should be stopped
- If you have symptoms of coronavirus, stay at home and do not leave your house for 14 days from when the symptoms started. The most common symptoms of coronavirus are the recent onset of a new continuous cough and/or high temperature
- Volunteers should follow advice and guidance provided by [NHS](#) and [gov.uk](#)

Q: I am scheduled to go on a training course. Should I attend?

A: All volunteer activities have been postponed, if you had training scheduled during this period we will reschedule training when we are able to resume.

Forestry England

Q: Are there any changes to how we manage our public facilities and events?

A: We are following government guidance on managing public facilities and events. Our facilities will remain open unless we are advised otherwise by the Government or Public Health England or we are unable to manage them safely due to staff absence. We are continuing with our ongoing planning for public events later in the year, whilst reviewing the situation closely. We are also liaising with third parties who manage facilities on our estate to ensure alignment with the latest advice and consistent messaging for our customers.

Q. What should we be doing in our forests that have facilities for visitors that will be frequently touched?

A. The government has issued guidelines for everyone on social distancing and we have not been asked to close sites, so we remain open for business. To prevent spreading the disease Forestry England (and our business partners) should:

- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces, following standard procedures for your location.
- Remind visitors to follow the easy but important personal hygiene guidance outlined by government (eg GOV.UK, PHE and NHS), particularly: washing your hands more often; avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands; covering your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in a bin and wash your hands.

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Version Control

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