



Newsletter

March 2020: Covid-19 And Your Allotment



**Open For Business - But
Please Read Carefully**

The UK is now under lockdown which severely restricts our activities. Allotment holders are wondering - does this restrict access to my plot? The answer is: **It is perfectly sensible for people to go to an allotment. It is in the very nature of allotments that there is a safe distance between people working on an individual allotment.** This is from UK Cabinet Officer Minister Michael Gove. Click [here](#) for the video.

A Scottish Government official has confirmed that:-

The First Minister's speech made last night, and the Scottish Government guidance permits people to take one form of exercise per day - run, walk or cycle. Click [here](#) to read the speech. Click [here](#) for UK government guidance on staying at home and away from others.

Whilst we can take advantage of this advice and continue to visit and work on our allotments it is VITAL that we all follow strict social distancing and handwashing procedures.

Guidance notices have been posted at each gate on the site and can be read [here](#).

Further, social distancing must involve everyone with no exceptions. Our rules state that children must be accompanied by adults at all times. It is very likely that with the schools closed you may be bringing children with you. If so, they should be kept under control and not allowed to run about the allotments.

If children cannot understand the gravity of the situation we find ourselves in, then keep them at home with you. Allotments are not playgrounds, ploholders are at risk of this virus so let us all act for the good of everyone.

Are you struggling to tend your plot as a result of the situation? If so, please contact your site committee or representative so that arrangements can be made for it to be looked after. Similarly, if you have spare time and energy to help someone in need, please also let them know.

In the fullness of time we will get through this if we follow the rules and act respectfully. We are lucky to have an allotment - now more than ever.

Further Advice On Keeping Safe

The gates, taps and any communal equipment are areas of risk.

Wash your hands before leaving home and take gloves and soap with you.

Use the gloves to open the gate. Wash your hands after opening the gate.

Wear the gloves to use communal equipment, such as wheelbarrows.

Wash the tap handle while washing your hands in case you have contaminated it turning it on.

Keep soap at the allotment.

As there may be a breeze try and keep at least 3 metres away, particularly if down wind. *"Think of three to be virus free!"*

Use the gloves to exit the gate.

Wash the gloves when back at home or dispose of them.



Rules And Regulations Review: A Reminder

Back in another age we were looking at the proposed allotment rules and regulations that Edinburgh Council have issued. You have until **March 27th** to read and respond. It may be that you have some enforced idle time so use it wisely. Click [here](#) for an overview at the Consultation Hub. Click [here](#) to read the proposed Rules and Regulations and click [here](#) to give feedback.

©2020 Federation of Edinburgh and District Allotment and Gardens
Associations | FEDAGA