

Ellesmere Town Council

1-3 Willow Street, Ellesmere, SY12 0AL

Location: Various Locations

Title : Litter Picking During Coronavirus	Date of Assessment : 26/03/2021	Risk Assessor : Vanessa Hughes
Risk Assessment Reference : Volunteers - Litter Picking	People involved in making this assessment : Vanessa Hughes	
Task/ Process : Litter Picking	People at Risk : Employees, Contractors, Members of the Public, Volunteers, Service Users	

Hazard : Failure to follow Government policies Will lead to the spread of coronavirus infection among our volunteers and anyone they come into contact with.
Control Measures:
1. 2 metre social distancing between volunteers and members of the public.
2. Do not shake hands or share equipment.
3. Do not volunteer or travel at all if you are suffering from any form of cold or flu like symptoms - follow government advice regarding self - isolation and sickness reporting.
4. If you are in a high risk group in terms of personal health as defined by the government and/or have responsibility for the care of someone in that high - risk group please only volunteer if you can maintain strictest standards of self- isolation when outside.
5. More information can be found on the World Health Organization (WHO) website.
6. Serious gatherings / social distance breaches and/or anti-social behaviour likely to cause harm / distress should be reported to team leader and / or police.
7. Further information for Coronavirus can be found at https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus

Hazard : Uninformed Volunteers Uninformed volunteers who are not fully aware and understanding of the procedures and arrangements we have put in place to work within Government Policy on volunteering could compromise our arrangements and jeopardise the health of others.
Control Measures:
1. Specific procedures and measures to reduce the risk of spreading Coronavirus have been prepared. These are based on NHS, Public Health and Government guidance and instruction. They are updated daily to reflect any changes in the official advice and guidance.
2. Every volunteer has been fully briefed to ensure that that they are aware of the hazards and risks and understand the rules and procedures we have put in place.
3. We have shared with our volunteers, the arrangements we have in place and how we would expect them to cooperate.

Hazard : Contact and Equipment Risk of infection being passed from contacts and equipment.
Control Measures:
1. Volunteers instructed to maintain the advised 2m separation from contacts at all times, wherever possible. If entry to premises is required they are instructed to ask whether anyone has been diagnosed with Covid-19 or has been required to self-isolate, and act accordingly.
2. Volunteers instructed to avoid contact with whom are coughing, show signs of difficulty in breathing or sweating/fever, loss of, or change in, their normal sense of smell or taste (anosmia).

3. Volunteers are instructed to clean their hands frequently, using an alcohol-based hand sanitiser that contains at least 60-95% alcohol, or to wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

4. Volunteers are instructed not to touch their eyes, nose or mouth, if their hands are not clean.

5. Volunteers are instructed that physical contact with anyone, such as handshakes, hugs, etc are not to be undertaken.

Hazard : Travel and Vehicles Risk of the spread of infection from vehicles and during travel and risks collision while litter picking.

Control Measures:

1. Public transport will only be used where absolutely essential. Volunteers instructed on avoiding contact with surfaces, distancing and hand washing as per Government policies.

2. Volunteers who use their own vehicles have been advised to ensure that surfaces and controls are routinely sanitised.

3. Increased ventilation when possible - windows are to be kept open to increase airflow through the vehicle.

4. Wash hands regularly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds this should be taken with you in your car if public facilities are not available or adequate.

5. Do not car share with others outside of your household or support bubble.

6. Avoid close proximity to traffic if possible.

7. Do not litter pick highways.

8. Be alert to the potential presence of agricultural machinery.

9. Wear high visibility clothing if necessary.

10. Do not work on the road side if the speed limit is 40mph or over.

11. Be aware of the vehicles around you during the litter pick.

12. Children should not work by a road-side.

Hazard : Personal hygiene and PPE Inadequate personal hygiene standards pose a risk of contracting the infection and cross contaminating and surfaces.

Control Measures:

1. Volunteers instructed to clean their hands frequently, using a hand sanitiser containing at least 60% alcohol, or to wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

2. Volunteers instructed not to touch their eyes, nose or mouth, if their hands are not clean.

3. Volunteers instructed that a disposable tissue, should be used when coughing and or sneezing then put into bag and binned or pocketed until that procedure can be followed.

4. Volunteers instructed that any potentially contaminated clothing and or personal protective equipment should be taken off and placed in a suitable plastic bag or container for appropriate action.

5. Wash hands as soon as you return home and either disinfect equipment that you took with you (Litter pickers for example), or "Quarantine" equipment in a separate room or outside until you need it next.

6. Where personal protective equipment is offered for use by anyone else it must be politely declined and only the equipment we have provided is to be used.

7. Personal protective equipment is required to remain PERSONAL to the person to whom it was issued. Volunteers instructed not to borrow from others.

Hazard : Food and drink Potential for cross-infection from Eating, Drinking and smoking.

Control Measures:

1. Volunteers instructed to politely refrain from consuming beverages and food products that are offered by anyone else, due to the risks associated with cross contamination.

2. Volunteers encouraged to prepare food and drink at home and carry it with them through the day, so that they can take rest breaks avoiding the need to visit take away outlets or shops and potential exposure to infection.

3. Never eat, drink or smoke without cleaning your hands first.

Hazard : Chemicals Chemicals

Control Measures:

1. No Chemicals to be used during litter picks.

Hazard : Injury and Lifting and Handling Contact with potentially cross contaminated PPE may transmit infection.

Control Measures:

1. Volunteer will be expected to conduct a 'dynamic' assessment for any moving and handling task, to avoid hazardous manual handling and use means to reduce risk of injury if the task cannot be avoided

2. Musculoskeletal injury – when picking, lifting and carrying collected litter. - Volunteers to be briefed by supervisor on safe lifting practices and use of good techniques and equipment to minimize bending, stooping and twisting movements.

3. Injury because of a slip, trip or fall on the same level or on a slope. Carry out a visual check of general site conditions. Assess and report possible cause, extent and degree of damage to pavements, turfed areas or hedgerows to group leader who will report to Shropshire Council Highways.

4. All forms of injury must be reported.

5. Danger from dogs / general public. - Litter picking to be always carried out by a minimum of 2 people

Hazard : Exposure to pathogenic micro-organisms Exposure to pathogenic micro-organisms on hazardous items. E.g. hypodermic needles, broken glass, blood contaminated objects.

Control Measures:

1. Volunteers instructed when reporting any hazards to the Town Clerk this must be done by the team leader on their mobile phone.

2. Volunteers are not to collect hazardous materials. If found contact group leader so he/she can make arrangements for safe disposal of hazardous waste.

3. Welfare advice is covered in safety briefing in the event of a needle-stick injury or cuts, scratches or abrasions arising from direct contact.

4. Leave needles but report immediately to group leader.

- 5. Leave dog faeces but report immediately to group leader.
- 6. Only use supplied equipment to collect and bag litter and wear gloves.
- 7. In the event of Hazardous fly tipping, Assess and report extent and description of waste materials present to group leader.

Hazard : Smoking Inhalation of tobacco smoke and or vapours from e-cigarettes may make smokers vulnerable to coronavirus infection.

Control Measures:

- 1. As a precautionary measure volunteers advised not to smoke and to avoid inhaling tobacco smoke and e-cigarette vapour emitted from other persons.
- 2. Workers are reminded to comply with no smoking regulations at all times.
- 3. Never eat, drink or smoke without cleaning your hands first.

Documents Associated with this Risk Assessment:	
Review Date : 26/03/2022	Reviewer : Vanessa Hughes