**COVID-19 2020 – PLAYGROUND/ OUTDOOR GYM RE-OPENING RISK ASSESSMENT**

As from 4th July 2020 the [Government has enabled](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do-after-4-july) *outdoor playgrounds [and outdoor gyms] to reopen but the people responsible for them - for example, the local authority - should ensure they comply with COVID-19 Secure guidelines to help avoid risks of transmission.*

The Government has published the [COVID-19 Guidance for managing playgrounds and outdoor gyms](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-managing-playgrounds-and-outdoor-gyms/covid-19-guidance-for-managing-playgrounds-and-outdoor-gyms), which operators of play areas should use to for their own planning reopening purposes.

A hierarchical risk-based approach to safety inspections could be applicable to the risks of transmission of the virus. The four levels of significance are as follows: -

1. **Regional significance**

A large ‘destination’ facility that attracts year-round visitors from outside of immediate town/parish. In most instances they have car parking available. May be associated with other facilities such as cafes, larger parks, beaches etc. E.g. Royal Victoria Park (Bath)

1. **Town / Parish significance**

These are the main ‘destination’ playgrounds, normally within an open space seen as the ‘jewel’ of a particular town or parish. Equipped with multiple items they are still usually smaller in scale than Regional assets. They often have car parking nearby and may be associated with a range of other formal facilities: skate, walks, horticulture, they are established sites and the standard of management is usually high. E.g. Grove Park Weston Super Mare

1. **Neighbourhood 1 significance**

Local play facilities positioned to serve a specific community or population within a settlement. They are less likely to attract significant use from elsewhere in the parish. Referred to in planning terms as a Neighbourhood Equipped Area of Play (NEAP) or Local Equipped Area of Play (LEAP). Typically comprise 3 or 4 items and limited furniture. Rarely have designated parking.

1. **Neighbourhood 2 significance**

A small, low value site with 1 or 2 smaller items serving a few nearby properties or the immediate residential street.

**Severity (S):** The following risk assessment has been prepared to consider the risk of transmission of the COVID-19 virus only. It is assumed that all other safety issues are managed separately. As a consequence, the Severity (S) rating of transmission of the virus is a constant, and is based upon the recipient or someone that they subsequently infect (indirect risk), requiring hospital treatment (3 out of 5).

**Possible Likelihood (L):** 5 (Highly likely), 4 (Likely), 3 (Possible), 2 (Unlikely), 1 (Highly unlikely)

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Nature of hazard or issue increasing risk of transmission** | **Persons at direct risk** | **Hierarchy (significance)** | **Likelihood x Severity = Risk Rating** | **Recommended Control Measures (if RR > 6)** | **Potential additional controls to reduce risk, where reasonably practical (if RR > 10)** |
| **L** | **S** | **RR** |
| **Potential overcrowding on equipment** | Children and those supervising | Regional | 5 | 3 | 15 | Signs to advise public to avoid when busy.Signs requiring queuing for equipment, parent/carer supervision and social distancing.Promote feedback & incident reporting. | Consider ground-markings, one- way flow of play and additional signs promoting social distancing.Signs regularly checked.Monitor and re-close facility, if issue considered excessive and uncontrollable. |
| Town / Parish | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| Neighbourhood 1 | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| Neighbourhood 2 | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| **Groups of visitors in close proximity to those from outside of their support pod.** | All visitors.Maintenance operatives. | Regional | 4 | 3 | 12 | Signs to advise public to avoid when busy.Signs requiring social distancing. Time inspections & maintenance to avoid busy periods. Promote feedback & incident reporting. | Limit visitors to those actively supervising. Consider ground-markings and additional signs promoting social distancing. Signs regularly checked.Monitor and re-close facility, if issue considered excessive and uncontrollable. |
| Town / Parish | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| Neighbourhood 1 | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| Neighbourhood 2 | 1 | 3 | 3 |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Nature of hazard or issue increasing risk of transmission** | **Persons at risk** | **Hierarchy (significance)** | **Likelihood x Severity = Risk Rating** | **Recommended Control Measures (if RR > 6)** | **Potential additional controls to reduce risk, where reasonably practical (if RR > 10)** |
| **L** | **S** | **RR** |
| **Virus left on surfaces such as gate latches, tables or seating used by adults & families and on outdoor gym equipment**  | Visitors using and members of their household. Maintenance operatives | Regional | 4 | 3 | 12 | Signs requesting handwashing & hand sanitation before entering and on leaving. No eating or smoking. | Signs regularly checked.Consider provision of hand-sanitiser.Consider removal of latches, gates, furniture or preventing use with tape, mesh and/or signage. |
| Town / Parish | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| Neighbourhood 1 | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| Neighbourhood 2 | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| **Virus left on surfaces within enclosed units where may survive for longer periods – e.g. tube slides, tunnels and playhouses** | Children and assisting carers | Regional | 5 | 3 | 15 | Signs to parents/carers to encourage that these be avoided.Signs requesting handwashing & hand sanitation before entering and on leaving. No eating. | Signs regularly checked.Consider regular disinfection or preventing use with tape, mesh and/or signage.Consider provision of hand-sanitiser. |
| Town / Parish | 4 | 3 | 12 |
| Neighbourhood 1 | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| Neighbourhood 2 | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| **Children (infectious) shouting close to people outside of support bubble** [(increasing respiratory droplets)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/staying-safe-outside-your-home/staying-safe-outside-your-home) | All visitors.Maintenance operatives. | Regional | 4 | 3 | 12 | Signs to parents/carers to discourage shouting.Signs to advise public to avoid when busy.Signs requiring queuing for equipment, parent/carer supervision and social distancing. | Signs regularly checked.Monitor and re-close facility, if issue considered excessive and uncontrollable. |
| Town / Parish | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| Neighbourhood 1 | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| Neighbourhood 2 | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| **Nature of hazard or issue increasing risk of transmission** | **Persons at risk** | **Hierarchy (significance)** | **Likelihood x Severity = Risk Rating** | **Recommended Control Measures (if RR > 6)** | **Potential additional controls to reduce risk, where reasonably practical (if RR > 10)** |
| **L** | **S** | **RR** |
| **Litter & PPE left with infectious material on-site** | All visitors.Maintenance operatives. | Regional | 4 | 3 | 12 | Signs requesting that PPE & litter be taken home and disposed of safely.Reinforce standard safe waste handling measures. Double bag bin waste and store for 48 hours. | If necessary consider installing additional bins, increasing frequency of visits by waste contractor. |
| Town / Parish | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| Neighbourhood 1 | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| Neighbourhood 2 | 1 | 3 | 3 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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