

# 1<sup>st</sup> Cookham Scout Group – Cub Scout at Formosa

## Covid-19 restarting face to face Scouting risk assessment

The purpose of this risk assessment is to prepare for the restart of face to face Scouting under the COVID-19 guidelines, whilst still managing the risk and to put the right training interventions into the Cub programme so that Cubs learn how to manage risks themselves. The same risks will exist for all sections, but this document focuses on the appropriate mitigations for the risks for packs activity where youth members should be expected to take significant responsibility for their own safety. The document does not cover specific programme activities (e.g. fire lighting, saws, wide games, etc) which need separate risk assessment. For many of the core camping skills that we practice at Formosa the relevant risks and mitigations are in the 'Camping and Nights Away' risk assessment.



<b>Name of Section or Activity</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Cookham Cub Scout Meeting at Formosa</b>	<b>Date of risk assessment</b>	<b>15 – 07 - 2020</b>	<b>Name of who undertook this risk assessment</b>	<b>Jeff Hurst / Peter Turner</b>	<b>COVID-19 readiness level transition</b>	<b>Red to Amber</b>
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<b>Hazard Identified? / Risks from it?</b>	<b>Who is at risk?</b>	<b>How the risks are already controlled? What extra controls are needed?</b>	<b>What has changed that needs to be thought about and controlled?</b>
<b>COVID-19</b>			
Maintaining social distance during the process of collecting equipment for the activity from the Scout stores: higher risk of infection spread if social distancing not maintained.	Leaders and other adults	Leaders and adults will be reminded of the need to maintain social distance whilst collecting and returning equipment from the Scout stores to reduce the risk of infection.  Programme planning to think about minimising use of equipment.	
Maintaining social distance at drop off and pick up: higher risk of infection spread if social distancing not maintained.	All group members	After consent has been received from the parents or guardians that a young member will be attending a meeting, they will be given a staggered arrival and pick up time to reduce the risk of infection.  One Leader dedicated to ensuring social distancing at arrival and departure, who subsequently does not join any group.	

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Maintaining social distance during meeting: higher risk of infection spread if social distancing not maintained.	All group members	<p>We will limit group sizes to the volume of people Formosa can support with social distancing in place, maintaining and marking clear space between groups, the leaders will pre-plan how groups will be managed for each activity. On arrival at their activity area, before being briefed on the activity in their individual groups, the young people will be reminded of the social distancing rules that have been agreed with their parents/carers.</p> <p>Cubs to be allocated a coloured bib, so that the groups can be seen at great distance, and all adults can see if any person is not keeping the social distancing rules. Bibs to be kept by the Cubs for the duration.</p>	
Young people stepping outside the social distancing agreed, increasing the chances of the virus spreading	All group members	<p>Where a young person breaks the distancing, a leader should separate as soon as possible from their group. Those involved should then sanitise their hands. If this is a major breach of distancing e.g. a bundle/fight, then the incident will need to be recorded by the leaders and the parents/carers should be informed. If the young person repeatedly breaks distancing, they may not be allowed to return to face to face meetings for a period defined by the section leader and GSL/AGSL.</p> <p>Bibs will help this, but breaking the rules will mean being excluded for at least one meeting.</p>	
Hygiene of people: higher risk of infection spread if proper hand washing not carried out.	All group members	All involved will be provide with hand sanitiser/ hand washing for members on arrival, departure and during as required.	
Hygiene of activity equipment: Higher risk of infection spread if hygiene not carried out.	All group members	<p>Leaders will arrange for the cleaning of activity equipment before and after group use, assigning specific items to individuals for the evening, limiting volume of equipment used, including consumables such as paper.</p> <p>All equipment to be thoroughly cleaned at the end of each session, and not shared between groups within the session.</p> <p>Programme planning to think about minimising use of equipment.</p>	

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Use of outdoor spaces: un-even ground, access to space less controlled, cannot be cleaned.	All group members	<p>Controls could include: choice of location appropriate to activity, briefing to leaders and young people on boundaries, checks on the location ahead of use by leaders, hand washing for all participants.</p> <p>Location is known well to all Leaders. Programme activities will be chosen to meet the locations physical attributes and limitations.</p>	
Hygiene of toilets: higher risk of infection spread if hygiene not carried out.	All group members	There are no toilets on Formosa. With short meeting sessions this should not be a problem. All group members attending who need to go will be directed to discreet locations in the bushes, and also need to wash hands afterwards. Parents are asked to remind young people to use the toilet before attending.	
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<b>TRANSPORT</b>			
Cars on narrow lane with limited passing spaces, not supervised by leaders	All group members plus local residents	<p>At the start of each Formosa season, the Group will write to all parents reminding them of the safety risks of the road, particularly given that Cubs may be cycling or walking down the road at the time. They will also be reminded about the importance of respecting our neighbours and not aggravating them with aggressive driving. We have put unofficial speed limit signs up and we will remind parents that they need to be respected. Leaders travelling to and from the site need to highlight inappropriate parent driving behaviour.</p> <p>Under the COVID-19 guidelines we will introduce staggered arrival and pickup times.</p> <p>Parents advised of strict drop-off and pick-up times.</p>	

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Cubs cycling to meetings	All group members	<p>Cubs are encouraged to cycle to Formosa meetings for health and environmental reasons</p> <p>All Cubs must wear helmets</p> <p>All Cubs must have lights since they will be needed at the end of the meeting whenever we are at Formosa</p> <p>All Cubs will be encouraged to wear hi viz</p> <p>If Cubs turn up without helmets or lights, we will phone their parents and request that they drop off helmets and lights by the end of the meeting, or pick the Cubs and their bikes up.</p> <p>If we realise at the end of the meeting that Cubs don't have lights, we will call their parents and request that they get picked up.</p>	
<b>SITE RISKS</b>			
Steep banks of river Thames	All group members	The actual sloping banks of the river are out of bounds in wide games, e.g. for hiding places. Cubs need to be reminded of out-of-bounds areas at the start of all wide games	
River flowing fast in flood conditions	All group members	If the main river channel is in flood then we will keep the Pack on the main Formosa Meadow and will not cross over to the far island for games and activities	
Shallow muddy banks of Thames backwaters	All group members	The risk here is low... no special precautions to be taken. The water flows very slowly and the backwater river bed slopes very gently	

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Trees	All group members	<p>At the start of each Summer Season we will inspect the woods for obvious hazards, e.g. clearly dead branches, severed branches suspended in the tree canopy, etc. Where these can be remediated safely, we will do so (e.g. dragging suspended, severed branches out of the canopy with ropes). If a whole tree is clearly dangerous and requires professional tree surgery, we will fence it off and talk to the landowner.</p> <p>If there are high winds, we will tell the Cubs upon arrival at the field that they cannot climb trees ...and before doing any activities under the canopy a leader will check that the branches above look safe</p> <p>Cubs are allowed to climb trees within the limits of their confidence and ability but light supervision needs to be provided by leaders to make sure that branches are not too crowded (Cubs could accidentally knock each other off) and Cubs are not going stupidly high.</p>	
Rope swings, etc	All group members	Old rope swings can rot or fray. All rope swings need to be taken down at the end of the activity for which they are built	
Stinging insects	All group members	<p>Parents need to be regularly reminded of the importance of updating us on any allergies that Cubs have.</p> <p>If particularly high levels of wasps or hornets are found on site a search should be made to find out if there is a nest locally, and pest control should be hired to remove it.</p>	
Glass	All group members	Unfortunately, there is some broken glass on site. Some of this is outside of the Scout Group's control, e.g. local youths drinking beer around a fire and throwing the bottles away. All users of the site must have footwear on at all times.	

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Nails	All group members	<p>After many years of Bonfire Displays, several areas of Formosa have nails in the ground and the turf.</p> <p>All users of the site must have footwear on at all times.</p> <p>No pallets or other wood with nails in to be taken to Formosa for the woodpile. Any that is found there needs to be taken down the tip rather than burned on site.</p>	
Nettles	All group members	<p>Nettles to be attacked with a strimmer / scythe / sprayer each year in areas of the field that we use, e.g. around the entrance to the woods.</p> <p>Cubs should be expected to keep away from nettles.</p>	
Ticks	All group members	<p>We have had no incidents of ticks at Formosa. We should keep looking out in case we do since they are slowly spreading around the country, but in the absence of any sightings no specific mitigations for tick risk are needed</p>	
Safety of equipment stored at the campsite	All group members	<p>Pioneering poles: every group using the pioneering poles needs to inspect them for soundness before use, e.g. is wood damp? Does a dropped pole ring or thud? Rotten poles should be taken to the woodpile for burning.</p>	
Injury risk to members of the public	Members of the public	<p>Formosa Meadow is a private field and there are no public rights of way leading to it. Nevertheless, members of the public occasionally come onto the field. This is primarily a landowner issue rather than a Scout Group one. The exception is when the Group has left on site equipment (e.g. Assault courses, pioneering structures, rope swings) that could tempt a member of the public into using them, potentially leading to an accident. When the site is left unattended with such structures in place they need to be visibly cordoned off, e.g. with barrier tape or orange barrier fencing, or free standing metal fencing, to discourage the public from using them.</p>	

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Solo working at the Campsite	Leaders and group supporters	There are plenty occasions when a leader may go down to the Campsite to plan activities or to check up on things. However, they should not be doing risky physical work like forestry, woodpile maintenance, etc, on their own. These tasks should be performed by work parties, or groups of at least two leaders, so that there is always some safety cover available.	
Thunder and lightning	All group members	If a thunderstorm is approaching the Cubs should be assembled in the middle of the meadow, away from trees, socially distanced. Any metal activity equipment in use should be put away until the storm has passed.	
Environmental damage	All group members	We are developing the Meadow as a conservation area as well as a campsite and so there will be some areas that we need to treat sensitively. Scouts, parents and vehicles are kindly asked to avoid any areas that have been obviously roped off for planting, seeding and conservation	
<b>Review:</b> This risk assessment is for a section to move from one COVID Readiness alert level to the next, an additional risk assessment should be produced for each move proposed.			

<b>Checked by Line Manager</b>	Andy Pearce GSL 16/7/2020	<b>Checked by Executive</b>	Nigel Hague Group Executive Chairman 16/7/2020
<b>Approved by Commissioner</b>	Name, Role / level Date	<b>Approved by Executive</b>	Name, Role / level Date
<b>Notification of level change</b>	Date and by who		

Additional information can be found in the [Safety Checklist for Leaders](https://scouts.org.uk/safety) and other information at [scouts.org.uk/safety](https://scouts.org.uk/safety)