



BEES COVID-19 Risk Assessment

The current COVID-19 risk assessment follows a risk-benefit approach.

Definitions

- BEES refers to Biodiversity and Environmental Education Society.
- The Course refers to the BEE a Nature Guide training course.
- Staff refers to a person working for BEES and includes trustees, teachers, volunteers and any other person who has an agreement or arrangement with BEES to conduct activities on its behalf.
- Participant refers to any person who is enrolled on the Course.
- Partner Organisation refers to an organisation who has kindly agreed to allow the outdoor practical sessions of the Course, to take place at a site they manage.
- The Public refers to any person who is not enrolled or involved in the Course but may be in contact with BEES Staff and Participants visiting an outdoor site as part of the Course.
- Everyone refers to Staff, Participants and the Public.

Hazard

Catching and transmission of COVID-19 by Staff or Participants whilst participating in the BEE a Nature Guide course programme.

BEES cannot remove all risk so adopts control measures to mitigate risks to an acceptable level. Remaining risk is weighed against the personal and environmental benefit of undertaking the course programme.

Benefit

- For everyone: Being in nature helps to improve health and wellbeing (White *et al.* 2019). In that perspective, the 25-year environment plan from the government highlights the importance and need of connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing (HM Government 2018).
- For the environment: The 25-year environment plan sets out actions such as 'drawing together targeted activities to make it easier for people to get involved in improving the natural world and spread the word about environmental issues' (HM Government 2018). In March 2019 a national report (JNCC, 2019) revealed that the UK was not raising public awareness of the importance of biodiversity. By teaching and training the Public about nature and environmental issues, BEES can help deliver this 25-year environment plan.

Who might be harmed?

Staff, Participants, and the Public.

What are our measures to control the risks?

Complying with changes to COVID-19 Guidance

- The Board of trustees will continue to monitor the government and NHS guidance and advice.
- BEES will update its policies and practices when there is new guidance.
- BEES will communicate and train its Staff including teachers to ensure they are aware of changes and best practices to follow.



Avoiding indoor face-to-face lessons

- BEES will move its originally planned indoor theory lessons to online sessions and will develop an online learning platform to support the training.

Communicating

- BEES will ensure that its Staff are aware of changes to government guidance and best practices to follow.
- BEES will make its COVID-19 policy and risk assessment available to its Staff, Participants and Partner Organisations on the charity's web page.
- BEES will direct Staff and Participants to the relevant COVID-19 policy of any Partner Organisation whose site BEES intends to visit as part of the Course.
- BEES will liaise with other Partner Organisations in advance of visiting their sites to ensure compliance with their COVID-19 policies.

Providing (and Protecting) Data

- BEES will comply with government guidelines in providing data to test and trace if requested. This will be collected and stored in line with the charity's data protection and privacy policy.

Encouraging Personal Responsibility

- Staff and Participants should not participate in outdoor activities if they have COVID-19 symptoms.
- During an outdoor activity, Staff and Participants should ensure their own actions comply with current COVID-19 government guidance, including social (physical) distancing, good hygiene/handwashing, face coverings and any other guidance in place.
- In general face coverings will be worn where social distancing cannot be maintained.
- Staff and Participants that show COVID-19 symptoms should self-isolate and get tested in line with government and NHS guidance.

Following Hygiene procedures during outdoor sessions

- BEES will provide hand sanitizer for use during the activities which everyone will be encouraged to use.
- BEES will ensure that any equipment needed during outdoor activities is sanitized after use by each member of Staff and Participant.
- BEES will remind Staff and Participants not to touch their eyes, nose or mouth and to wash hands afterwards if this occurs.
- BEES will encourage Staff and Participants to bring their own tissues and will instruct them to use their tissues when coughing or sneezing and then place the used tissue in the bin before washing their hands (catch it, bin it, kill it).

Appointing a COVID Officer

- BEES will appoint a member of Staff to act as a COVID Officer on each outdoor activity who will:
 - o ensure that Staff and Participants observe social distancing
 - o ensure that Staff and Participants use the hand sanitizer when they arrive to the outdoor activity
 - o will remind everyone of their personal responsibilities and the hygiene measures outlined in this risk assessment



Responding immediately to someone presenting COVID-19 symptoms on the Course

- Where a member of Staff or a Participant presents COVID-19 symptoms, the BEES COVID Officer will advise them to return home and isolate immediately in line with government guidelines.
- BEES will follow the appropriate reporting procedures.

Review

BEES will review its policy and control measures upon release of new government guidance.

Record of changes

Date of Change:	Changed By:	Comments:
31/10/2020	Anneloes Martinsen	Risk assessment approved by the Trustees
10/11/2020	Anneloes Martinsen	Risk assessment approved by the Trustees

References

HM Government. 2018. "A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment." Edited by Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs, p1-151.

Joint Nature Conservation Committee 2019 "United Kingdom's 6th National Report on the Convention on Biological Diversity" <https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/united-kingdom-s-6th-national-report-to-the-convention-on-biological-diversity/>

White, M. P., Alcock, I., Grellier, J., Wheeler,, B. W., Hartig, T., Warber, S. L., Bone, A., Depledge, M. H. and Fleming, L. E. (2019). Spending at least 120 minutes a week in nature is associated with good health and wellbeing. *Scientific Reports*, 9, 7730.