

## Green Sefton

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Dear Sir / Madam

23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020

### UPDATE ON COVID-19

### USE OF PARKS, COASTAL SITES (INC BEACHES) AND OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

You will have heard in the news that new restrictions have been put in place nationally by government and there are additional local restrictions for Merseyside and I wanted to update you on the consequences of this for community groups, sports users and the wider public who make use of our parks, coastline, beaches, open spaces and facilities, including sports pitches and buildings.

As a general rule, Merseyside's local lockdown advice is simply that you **must not** mix with another household inside your home or garden and that **should not** mix with another household outside your home, regardless of the 'rule of six', in order to break the spread of the virus within the community.

As of Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September, the following measures must be adhered to on Green Sefton land and in Green Sefton premises:

#### BUILDING USE

Preparations that we had on-going to re-open park pavilions to community group use have been suspended and we do not now anticipate opening these buildings again until spring 2021. With the potential of the government taking even more stringent action if infection rates don't fall, it would be premature of us to re-open park pavilions in the coming weeks.

## SPORTS FIXTURES

Football Changing Rooms will remain open solely for the use of toilets.

QR codes will now be displayed in at entrances and people are requested to scan the code with their mobile phone, as this will assist with track and trace in the event of infection being confirmed.

Whilst exemptions allow sports fixtures to proceed, the attendance of spectators is to be avoided. We ask parents of children participating in football fixtures to limit attendance to one person from the same household as the child, to ensure that there is social distancing practiced and not to crowd at touchlines.

If any pitches are not in use on site (whether allocated to you or not) teams should move aside, playing on the furthest pitches, so as to limit further the potential of close contact between spectators. FA Guidance state, 'spectators should remain socially distanced while attending fixtures. Spectator groups must be restricted to discrete six-person gathering limits and spread out' and spectators must not assemble together at the touchline. However, please bear in mind the local lockdown measures regarding meeting people outside your household.

## BOWLING GREENS

Clubs are asked to adhere with guidance by Bowls England and the British Crown Green Bowling Association. However, please bear in mind the local lockdown measures regarding meeting people outside your household.

## GOLF COURSES

Golf courses remain open and the measures already taken to limit the risk of infection between customers will continue. We have now installed QR codes at shop counters and players are required to scan the code, as this will assist with track and trace in the event of infection being confirmed. However, please bear in mind the local lockdown measures regarding meeting people outside your household.

## PLAYGROUNDS

These facilities have specific signage in place, and this must be adhered with. However, please bear in mind the local lockdown measures regarding meeting people outside your household.

## EVENTS

We regret requests for the holding of public events are likely to be declined until further notice. We will not allow activities that require physical contact between people (dancing, fitness and exercise classes). We will continue to follow both national and local restrictions.

## VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers who are active in voluntary work in parks and on the coast will be required to continue adhering to the measures. please bear in mind the local lockdown measures regarding meeting people outside your household.

## VISITING OUR PARKS, COAST, BEACHES AND OPEN SPACES

I want to quickly reiterate some of the key responsibilities everyone will need to adhere with when using the coast, beaches, parks and playing pitches.

- Please sanitise your hands before and after visiting.
- Avoid touching surfaces and site furniture.
- Please take litter home to help protect our staff
- Ensure social distancing is maintained. This applies to everyone, including Sefton staff.
- Please consider wearing a face covering.

## KEEPING SAFE

Finally, I need to caution that where there are persistent breaches of social distancing, such as crowding at sports fixtures or people ignoring other measures to control the risk of infection, we will have no option but to take further action, which might include the temporary closure of land or facilities

More information on Coronavirus can be found on our website at:

<https://www.sefton.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Thank you in advance for supporting efforts to keep everyone safe from the risk of infection. If you have further queries, please contact us at [greensefton@sefton.gov.uk](mailto:greensefton@sefton.gov.uk)

Yours Sincerely



Mark Shaw  
Service Manager – Green Sefton