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| **CleanupUK Health & Safety Advice for Litter-picking 2022** |
| **Important point:**  **Litter contaminated with covid-19 could potentially spread the virus back to humans by infecting animals which come into contact with it. whilst this is another great reason to remove litter, it also means that people must exercise extreme caution when dealing with discarded rubbish. Please ensure you have read all of the health and safety guidance provided before you go out litter-picking.**  We want you to be as safe as possible whilst out litter-picking, so we have outlined the following precautions to help you:   * Please ensure that you have made arrangements to have the litter collected removed either with your local council or in your own outdoor bin. * Please ensure that individuals only resume litter-picking when they are happy to do so – everyone should make their own decision about this! * Individuals currently displaying symptoms of COVID-19 or have been directly advised to self-isolate should not litter-pick. * If your group uses its own insurance policy, please check that it covers you for litter-picking during this period of the pandemic. * Consider who will collect any litter collected. Contact your council waste management team to check if they are able to remove the litter once collected from an agreed location. (Many councils currently have a lot of extra work on their hands, due to the unusually high number of people frequenting parks and to the higher volume of fly tipping at the moment your council may not have the capacity to collect litter gathered by volunteers). Some councils may agree to collect bags left by park bins, for example, if you speak to them about this in advance – but please don’t just leave the bags somewhere in the hope they will be collected, as it is very likely they will be torn apart by wildlife and all your hard work will be undone. |
| * It’s a good idea to arrange your litter-pick for when there are fewer people about – early mornings are a good time. * Ask anyone who is planning to join your litter-pick to postpone if they have any of the main symptoms of COVID-19, [***Click link for symptoms***](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/) * Make sure that you have plenty of sterilizing spray for equipment. * Ask all litter-pickers to wear their own gloves and mask and to bring plenty of sterilizing gel. * Remind everyone to avoid touching their face during the litter-pick/until they have washed their hands thoroughly (for 30 seconds with soap and very warm water). * Advise people to refrain from bringing refreshments to litter-picks at the moment. However, if they do so, ensure that people from different households do not share drinks or food. * Ensure that all participants at the litterpick give you their contact numbers ([you](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5d1c957fffcacf00016f67c8/t/5f1189403d5b4f2eef989b10/1594984774734/Toolkit+redesign+V4+-+Post+Covid.pdf) can find a sign in sheet for this on page 21 of our Toolkit) and ask everyone to inform you if they experience any Covid 19 symptoms within 14 days of the event - [***Click link for symptoms***](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/) * Only pick up litter with your litter-picker. * Do not pick up needles or sharps – please report these to the council * It is obviously very important to sterilize equipment thoroughly. Here are some suggestions to help you plan how to do this practically:   + Litter-pickers - bleach all equipment: dip handles in a bucket or a clean bin first, then turn over and put mucky end in for a soak or spray handles and bleach mucky ends in bucket / clean bin.      * + Handi-Hoops - wear gloves and spray hoops with beach and wipe down – or dip in a bin as above if they fit.      * + Gloves - All gloves to be given to residents and suggest they are asked to keep them and wash them for next time.      * + Hand Gel - Everyone to carry their own sanitizer and use after taking off gloves.   + Bags - If your council are supporting litter picking, check if they have the capacity to deliver bags when required. Or just use strong bin liners. * If possible, loan members of your group their own kit and ask them to take it home to sterilize after use themselves. * If you need to collect the kit after the litter-pick, please ensure that you sterilize it after use whilst wearing gloves and store it in a sealed bag. * Seal bags of litter tightly and leave in a place pre-arranged with your local council. * First Aid Treatment – please see current advice from St. John Ambulance <https://www.sja.org.uk/get-advice/first-aid-advice/covid-19-advice-for-first-aiders/> |