



Isle of Wedmore Good Neighbours Volunteer Support during COVID-19

Date of Risk Assessment	11 March 2021
Risk Assessment Completed by	Cathy Butterworth
Describe the activity you are doing and risk assessing	
Volunteers will be supporting people in the Wedmore community, including taking a short walk with a person, doing someone's shopping, collecting a prescription and visiting them in their homes.	
People involved in the volunteering and those benefiting from the volunteering	
Volunteers: – all adults, including some over 70.	
Clients to be helped by a volunteer:- all adults of any age, but probably mostly seniors. Some may be vulnerable and/or at increased risk of COVID-19.	

What is the activity?	Taking a short walk with a client.
What are the hazards, risks and consequences?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exposure to COVID-19 • Client unsteady when walking, at risk of falls.
Who is at risk?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteers, clients and public • Client and volunteer
How can you reduce risk?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow all general strategies, as set out below. • If difficult to stay 2 meters apart, both client and volunteer must wear a face mask. • Confirm that client is used to walking outside and has no relevant reasons not to walk outside.

What is the activity?	General volunteering in the local area.
What are the hazards, risks and consequences?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exposure to COVID-19
Who is at risk?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteers, clients and public
How can you reduce risk?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow all general strategies, as set out below.

What is the activity?	Doing someone else's shopping
What are the hazards, risks and consequences?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer's and/or isolated or vulnerable person's exposure to COVID-19 virus resulting in infection as a result of contact with each other and/or goods and to volunteer while shopping, leading to illness, infecting others, possible hospitalisation and/or death.
Who is at risk?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The person having shopping delivered. • Volunteers, especially those with underlying health conditions or aged 70 and over.
How can you reduce risk?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow all general strategies below. • Volunteer to ring the doorbell and leave shopping on doorstep and then take 3 steps back (min. 2 meters). • Volunteers to make sure that they have hand washing facilities with them at all times (i.e. sanitising gel), and consider wearing non latex gloves to avoid transmission of the virus through contact with goods/ shopping bags. • Volunteers to make sure that they use the gel regularly but especially before any contact with any items that may be shared or passed between the volunteer and another person.

What is the activity?	Collecting a prescription
What are the hazards, risks and consequences?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer's and/or isolated or vulnerable person's exposure to COVID-19 virus resulting in infection as a result of contact with each other and/or goods, leading to illness, infecting others, possible hospitalisation and/or death.
Who is at risk?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The person having prescription collected. • Volunteers, especially those with underlying health conditions or aged 70 and over.
How can you reduce risk?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow all general strategies below. • Check details of where to collect prescription and if it needs to be paid for. If so take cash and provide a receipt. • Volunteer to ring the doorbell and leave prescription on doorstep and then take 3 steps back (min. 2 meters). • Volunteers to make sure that they have hand washing facilities with them at all times (i.e. sanitising gel), and consider wearing non latex gloves to avoid transmission of the virus through contact with prescription goods.

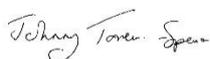
What is the activity?	Visiting a person in their own home
What are the hazards, risks and consequences?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer's and/or isolated or vulnerable person's exposure to COVID-19 virus resulting in infection as a result of contact with each other and/or surfaces, leading to illness, infecting others, possible hospitalisation and/or death.
Who is at risk?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The person being visited. • Volunteers, especially those with underlying health conditions or aged 70 and over.

What is the activity?	Visiting a person in their own home
How can you reduce risk?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow all general strategies below. • Ensure the visit is deemed to be 'necessary', ie the criteria below are met. • Volunteers to touch surfaces in the person's home as little as possible. • Volunteers to use hand sanitizer before entering house and on leaving. • Volunteers to consider wearing non latex gloves to avoid transmission of the virus through contact with surfaces in client's home. • Maintain a distance of 2 meters apart as far as possible. • Volunteer to wear a face mask, and also the client, unless they are exempt. • Avoid singing, shouting or talking loudly. • Try and let plenty of fresh air into the home by uncovering vents and opening doors and windows, even a small amount for a short period of time. • Keep the visit as short as possible, whilst achieving the purpose of the visit.

General strategies to reduce risk of exposure to COVID-19:-
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteers not to volunteer if they think they or anyone they live with have/has any of the 2 current symptoms for COVID-19 (a new, persistent cough or a temperature of 37.8 degrees or more). • Volunteers to make sure that they self-isolate if they think they or anyone they live with have/has ANY ONE of the 2 current symptoms for COVID-19 (at present these are: a new persistent cough; a temperature (fever) of 37.8 degrees or more) • Volunteers to make sure that they keep up with best practice via government and NHS websites. • Volunteers to make sure that they have hand washing facilities with them at all times (i.e. sanitising gel) and use it regularly, especially before any contact with any items that may be shared or passed between the volunteer and the vulnerable person. • Volunteers to make sure that they remain at least 2 meters away from others at all times. • If difficult to stay 2 meters apart, both client (unless they are exempt) and volunteer must wear a face mask,
Criteria for visiting a person in their home when this is outside national lockdown restrictions
<p>The national lockdown in place from 8 March 2021 states that:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>You must not leave or be outside of your home except where you have a 'reasonable excuse'</i> • <i>You must volunteer from home unless it is not reasonably possible for you to do so.</i> • <i>You can also meet with another person, including inside someone's home, where necessary to provide care or assistance for disabled or vulnerable people.</i> <p>Isle of Wedmore Good Neighbours will consider accepting a request to visit a person in their own home, if the above conditions are met. An assessment of where it is 'necessary' to provide care or assistance in a person's home could include the following:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where a referring professional deems that this is necessary, eg a GP, Health Coach or Village Agent • Where the person is unable to leave their home due to a physical or other disability

Risk assessment to be reviewed when lockdown restrictions change or any other relevant conditions change, eg increase of COVID-19 cases in and around Wedmore.

Signed:



Johnny Torrens-Spence, Chair, Isle of Wedmore Good Neighbours
Date of Scheduled review: 1 July 2021

Date:- 18 Mar 2021