



somerset
COMMUNITY | FOUNDATION



Isle of Wedmore Good Neighbours Volunteer Support during COVID-19

Date of Risk Assessment	2 nd January 2024
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, driving them in their cars.	
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. Maintain social distance where possible, eg 2 meters apart. If client and/or volunteer particularly at risk of COVID-19 both should consider wearing a face mask. Confirm that client is used to walking outside and has no relevant reasons not to walk outside.

What are the activities?	Doing someone else's shopping, 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 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 and/or prescription delivered.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. If Volunteer takes shopping/prescription inside, it is advised that wearing a face mask should be considered by the Volunteer if it is not possible to keep socially apart and if it is thought that one or both are particularly at risk. Volunteers advised to have hand sanitising gel accessible at all times. Volunteers advised to 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?	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.
How can you reduce risk?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow all general strategies below. Volunteers to touch surfaces in the person's home as little as possible. Volunteers advised to use hand sanitizer before entering house and on leaving. Maintain a social distance as far as possible. It is advised that wearing a face mask should be considered by the Volunteer if it is thought that one or both are particularly at risk and if it is not possible to keep socially apart. If possible the client should consider wearing a face mask, 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.

What is the activity?	Driving a person in a Volunteer's car
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, leading to illness, infecting others, possible hospitalisation and/or death.
Who is at risk?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The person being transported. 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. It is advised that the Volunteer wipes down surfaces before client uses car and afterwards. Keep windows open as much as possible to increase ventilation. It is advised that both client and Volunteer should consider wearing a face mask while travelling. Consider if the Client should sit behind driver if possible. Volunteers to make sure that they have hand washing facilities with them at all times (i.e. sanitising gel).

General strategies to reduce risk of exposure to COVID-19 for Volunteer and client:-

- Volunteers not to volunteer if they think they or anyone they live with have/has any of the possible symptoms for COVID-19. www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/main-symptoms/ Page last reviewed by Government on **21st March 2023**.
- Volunteers advised to have hand sanitising gel with them 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 remain socially distanced from others if at all possible.
- Whilst face masks are no longer required in any setting, if it is difficult to stay socially distanced, it is advised that both client (unless they are exempt) and volunteer should consider wearing a face mask.
- Testing for COVID-19 is no longer required as a general rule and free tests are only available within certain criteria. Government guidance can be found here. www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing/get-tested-for-coronavirus/ Last reviewed by Government on **21st March 2023**.
- It is recommended that Volunteers are vaccinated according to Government policy, which includes people over 75 and those who have a weakened immune system, being offered booster doses. www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-vaccine/ Last reviewed by Government on **21st March 2023**
- If a volunteer contracts COVID-19 they should not return to volunteering until they are symptom-free according to the latest Government guidance, but at least five days from a positive test or start of symptoms.
- Volunteers are advised to keep up with best practice via government and NHS websites.
- For the latest guidance go to www.gov.uk/guidance/living-safely-with-respiratory-infections-including-covid-19 Last updated by Government on **16 June 2022**

Additional strategies for Duty Coordinators:-

- Coordinator to ask vaccine status of client, ie fully, partly or unvaccinated
- Coordinator to provide this information on the initial email to Volunteers requesting support. Volunteer can choose to offer support or not according to their own risk factors and preferences.
- If a Volunteer chooses to support a partly or unvaccinated client, then adherence to the use of masks, distancing and hand cleansing, as set out in General Strategies above, is advised.

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

Reference is made to relevant Government documents and the most recent review dates have been indicated.

Chair's signature: Johnny Torrens-Spence



Date: 8 February 2024

Next Review due: July 2024