



Festina Lente COVID-19

Guidelines for Allotment

Holders

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Introduction

Festina Lente is currently preparing a series of COVID-19 Guidelines in preparation for when people will be able to return to Festina Lente. Although the date of this is uncertain, we are taking this time to develop guidelines such that we have considered all possible ways to minimise the spread of the virus. No doubt, we will continue to improve upon this over time. At the same time, we are keen that people have appropriate and safe ways so that they can have a chat and spend time with each other. So it's trying to get this balance right.

Whilst each person within Festina Lente has a responsibility both to themselves and to others to observe the guidelines, Festina Lente has set up a COVID-19 team to oversee general compliance with these guidelines. This team will be headed up by Elspeth Hockings – Health and Safety Officer. The team membership will be made up staff from across the organisation.

I will forward you on Elspeth Hockings email address and would ask that you email her if you notice any non-compliances and/or if you have further suggestions such that we can improve on our efforts.

Set out on the following pages are the guidelines which I hope you find helpful.



Jill Carey

Chief Executive Officer

Arrival to Festina Lente

We would ask that all allotment holders wash their hands before leaving their house. On arrival to Festina Lente, there are hand sanitising facilities in designated areas which we would encourage you to use. We would also ask that you bring your own sanitisers and gloves with you. We have ordered additional sanitisers but it would be enormously helpful if you could bring your own for your own use.

Social Distancing: Pathways into the Walled Garden

As we know, the path leading to the Walled Garden is just 9 feet wide which does not easily allow two people to pass by each other. As such, we ask that each person allows the oncoming person to pass by first. We have designated areas for people to use for waiting at both ends of the path. We would ask that you go straight to your allotment and that you do not stop to talk to any staff or other allotment holder that may be in this area. As this area can get very congested very quickly, we consider this a higher risk area than others and as such we really need you to comply with this guideline. There is plenty of space which you can use to chat and catch up with allotment holders.

We have moved all plant display areas to a different area to the left of the entrance of the Walled Garden. This will help to ensure that there is ample space for people to pass through from the entrance through to your allotment. It also ensures that there is maximum space for social distancing whilst looking at plants etc.,

Social Distancing: Pathways within the Walled Garden

We know that by keeping 2 meters apart we significantly reduce the possibility of being contaminated by the virus. However, when we look at the Walled Garden – despite that there are 2½ acres - the pathways are very narrow. In response to this we have put a one-way system in place which will prevent one or more people passing by each other. We have also put in place markers which clearly show the two-meter distance to help you gauge the distances. In this regard we will forward a you a map of the one-way system in addition to there being sufficient signage to direct you.

Social Distancing: Allotments

We have allocated allotment holders days and times during which they can visit. Please stay within this timetable in order to help work within the 2-meter rule. We have a timetable set out and this will be forwarded to you. This can be amended over time but for the short term please work within this timetable.

Use of Tools

On previous occasions, Festina Lente tools have been lent to allotment holders. To prevent the spread of the virus from surfaces to people, no tools will be lent to allotment holders. I would ask that you bring your own tools each time and keep them for your own use. If you are using the garden taps, please spray the tap after use. Sanitisers will be beside all taps. Please remember to take your tools home with you which will prevent them needing to be picked up.

Garden Shop

In order to prevent the spread of the virus, only one person is allowed in the shop at any given time. All payments will be contactless.

Bathrooms

As we know there are no bathrooms in the Walled Garden. We would ask that you use the bathroom in your home before coming to Festina Lente. This will help to minimise the number of people accessing the yard and will support our efforts to prevent the virus.