



# Festina Lente COVID-19

## Guidelines for Visitors to

## Victorian Walled Garden

## Introduction

Festina Lente is currently preparing a series of COVID-19 Guidelines in preparation for when the general public will be able to return to visit Festina Lente. 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.

We ask that in order to protect our most vulnerable clients that you only visit the Victorian Walled Garden. This allows the yard to remain open to clients with particular protocols being followed, and allotments remaining available for allotment holders.

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 Hocking – Health and Safety Officer. The team membership will be made up staff from across the organisation.

Elspeth Hocking's email address is [Elspeth.Hocking@festinalente.ie](mailto:Elspeth.Hocking@festinalente.ie) and we 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

## Contents

Introduction .....	2
Arrival to Festina Lente .....	4
Social Distancing: Pathways into the Walled Garden .....	4
Social Distancing: Pathways within the Walled Garden .....	4
Social Distancing: Other areas in the Facility .....	4
Garden Shop .....	4
Bathrooms.....	4
Wearing of Masks .....	5

## Arrival to Festina Lente

We would ask that all visitors wash their hands before leaving their house. On arrival to Festina Lente, you must use the hand sanitising facilities before coming into the Walled Garden or Yard. There are hand sanitisers in designated areas which we would encourage you to use. We would also suggest to you that you bring in your own hand sanitiser for your own use at any given time.

Staff will monitor numbers entering the garden area and if numbers become too high for social distancing to be undertaken, we reserve the right to close entry until numbers drop. We appreciate your patience in this matter.

## Social Distancing: Pathways into the Walled Garden

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. Although we don't have a traffic light system here, I believe that a common sense approach will work here – and communicating with whoever is either leaving or going in. We have designated areas for people to use for waiting at both ends of the path. We would ask that for visitors you move into the Victorian Walled Garden area rather than walk through the allotments. These are particularly tight in terms of space and we would like these to be available for allotment holders. As the entry to the Gardens 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. In particular, we would ask that you do not engage in conversation with staff that are in the shop due to how congested this area can potentially become.

## 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 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. We would ask you to move directly into the Victorian Walled Garden and use the grassed areas if necessary to pass by at a safe distance. Please do not linger in the Allotment area.

## Social Distancing: Other areas in the Facility.

We ask that you do not enter the Yard if you are visiting for leisure purposes and instead remain in the Victorian Walled Garden area. This minimises the number of people accessing the yard which is important for reducing the risk for our more vulnerable clients.

## 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. Please wait outdoors if the shop is busy.

## 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.

## Wearing of Masks

As of now, there is no clear direction on the wearing of masks. Please consider this as optional in the absence of government guidelines.