

## **HAMBLEDON PC Playground Updated Risk Assessment - Jan 2021 FINAL**

On 04 January 2021, the Prime Minister announced a national lockdown for all of England. Under national lockdown, outdoor public playgrounds can remain open, but outdoor gyms must close:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-managing-playgrounds-and-outdoor-gyms/covid-19-guidance-for-managing-playgrounds-and-outdoor-gyms>

The guidance includes a requirement to “carry out an appropriate COVID-19 risk assessment”, and it is the PC’s duty to ensure that this remains up to date.

Risk Identified	Severity Rating	Likelihood of Occurrence	Risk Rating	Mitigation/Control Measures
Catching COVID-19 from contaminated surfaces	Low	Very low	Very low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notices about using personal sanitiser on hands before and after use of equipment.</li> <li>• Parental supervision needed to wipe hands of children frequently and unsupervised children to wipe their own hands.</li> <li>• Notices to make clear that equipment is not cleaned on a regular basis.</li> </ul>
Catching COVID-19 from droplets exuded by an asymptomatic person.	Low	Very low	Very low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social distancing of minimum 1m+ to be enforced by parents at VH. Notices to state this.</li> <li>• No person under 10 is to be unsupervised.</li> <li>• Those over 10 at SG are to have hand sanitiser with them.</li> </ul>
Catching COVID-19 from droplets exuded by a symptomatic person	Low	Very low	Very low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notices forbidding entrance to play areas by anybody showing symptoms of COVID-19.</li> </ul>
Failure to social distance	Low	Low	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notices warning parents to exercise control.</li> <li>• No more than one family/‘bubble’ on a piece of equipment at any one time.</li> <li>• Maximum number of 10 persons in the VH play area at any one time.</li> </ul>
Contamination through food or litter	Low	Very low	Very low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notices to be displayed stating no food is to be eaten in the play areas and litter is to be taken home.</li> </ul>

Infection of special needs children	Low	Very low	Very low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Those children who find difficulty in understanding the COVID-19 rules (e.g. Social distancing) will need extra supervision from parents &amp; notices need to make this clear.</li> </ul>
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### Amendments to the Original Risk Assessment July 2020

The following control measures have been removed from the original RA:

- Playhouse and tunnel at VH to remain out of action for the time being.
- Only one swing to be used at a time unless users are from the same household/‘bubble’.
- One older children swing at VH is to be tied up.

The justification for this is that, due to low usage at the current time, the risk is deemed acceptable; and there is a lack of practical options the PC has for preventing use. Since the re-opening of the playgrounds in 2020, taping-off the above areas and using ‘out of use’ notices has not been successful in preventing use of the equipment. There is no practical alternative.

The following pre-requisite has also been removed:

- Deep clean of both play areas is to take place before either is brought into use – including sanitiser and disinfectant.

The justification for this is that visitor numbers to the play areas are in general very low at this time of year, hence the low risk of high-traffic touch-point areas.

### Conclusion

Following this risk assessment, and subsequent approval at the 01/02/21 PC meeting, Hambledon PC has made the decision to keep the play areas at the Village Hall (VH) and at Stewart’s Green (SG) open for public use. This will need to be monitored on an on-going basis and the RA reviewed as standard at the monthly PC meetings.