

Knutsford GROW and working during covid pandemic

Covid-19 will be a feature of our lives for the foreseeable future, so we need to learn to live with it and manage the risk to ourselves and others.

As Covid-19 restrictions are lifted, organisations and groups need to make judgements to manage the risks of coronavirus. While no situation is risk free, there are actions that can be taken to limit transmission of the virus (from enabling safe and effective volunteering during coronavirus)

Knutsford GROW has existing guidance for working which was written early during the pandemic, which has been updated here. The review was in December 2021 following publication of updated guidance, and a risk assessment phone discussion between Karen Williams (volunteer coordinator) and Clare Brabbins (trustee).

Coordinators are aware of the importance of minimising physical contact, maintaining social distance in confined places and of regular hand washing/sanitising. They are also familiar with current guidance around being tested and isolating in response to the new variant of coronavirus.

People should not leave home to work or volunteer if they have covid-19 symptoms or a positive test, or if they are told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace.

Actions specific to working and volunteering with GROW are as follows:-

- People should not leave home to work or volunteer if they have a cough or cold

- All volunteers have their own gardening gloves

- Tools are sanitised regularly

- Volunteers do not enter beneficiaries' homes

Volunteers meet outside beneficiaries' homes rather than at the GROW base, so do not share lifts. If sharing a car in unavoidable, windows are opened and masks are worn.

Clare Brabbins. 11 December 2021