



COVID-19 UPDATE

JUNE 2020

We at Storey Arms Outdoor Education Centre, know how important it is for children and young people to experience the outdoors. We recognise how these experiences are needed now, more than ever, following the Coronavirus pandemic and the impact it has on our health and emotional wellbeing.

Our team are committed to minimising the risk of spreading the virus and are putting in measures so we can begin to work with our clients again as soon as possible.

We wanted to share with you how we intend to reduce the risk at our Centre and out on activities, whilst still enjoying the enrichment of what Storey Arms has to offer.

First and foremost

If a child, young person, staff member, or anyone who lives in their household, is experiencing any of the known Covid-19 symptoms, they must please stay at home and follow self-isolation guidelines.

Common symptoms include:

- High temperature
- New, continuous cough
- A loss of, or change to, your sense of smell or taste
- Fatigue

For further information, please check with your local Health Board.

What guidance do we follow?

We adhere to the guidance provided by Welsh Government and Cardiff Council Health and Safety teams. We have also worked closely with Cardiff's Education Service to ensure that these measures offer consistency for visiting pupils and staff.

We will follow developments in other areas such as outdoor learning, transport, specialist activity equipment, access to the outdoor and indoor activity environments, etc. to draw on current best practice. These will include:

- [OEAP Wales](#)
- [Brecon Beacons National Park](#)
- Outdoor Alliance Wales

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OUR TEAM

Our staff team are supported by Cardiff Council's staff welfare and training programmes, regarding Covid-19 related health and safety issues and procedures. This allows our staff to work safely together so that we can then work safely with you.

Our outdoor tutors are highly experienced in delivering outdoor education programmes and are working on new procedures for our activities allowing for social distancing and hygiene requirements.

We will continue to monitor developments in best practice, ensuring that our team members are fully trained to implement them.

OUR PLAN

Based on the current guidance from Welsh Government (June 18), it is unlikely that we will be able to accept residential groups at the Storey Arms in the near future. This means that, sadly, we are unable to welcome our customers who visit from further afield until this guidance changes.

However, we are fortunate that most of our clients are closer at hand and we are looking at ways of being able to start working with you as soon as we can.

Our plans will be based on the Welsh Government's system of Red-Amber-Green and we expect to be able to offer some activities at venues nearer to Cardiff at first, with additional day activities based at the Storey Arms being introduced as and when we can.

We are also developing a range of resources for teachers and families over the coming weeks. These will be ideas for practical outdoor, fun learning sessions, that can be used at home or school, for different age groups and different curriculum areas.

For Duke of Edinburgh Award groups, we are developing some video-based 'top tips' sessions for camp craft and navigation.

OUR CENTRE

We have begun a process of risk assessment in the use of the Storey Arms buildings and grounds. Once we can welcome groups to the centre, we will have new procedures for movement around the buildings and grounds.

As the virus presents a lower risk of transmission outside, we will be using all the outdoor areas as creatively as possible so that we can offer a range of activities on site. We will also be using our marquee as an outdoor dining area, allowing significant airflow whilst pupils eat the packed lunches they have brought with them.

We will provide handwashing stations indoors and outdoors and we will regularly remind pupils about handwashing and contact with others.

We will have a strict cleaning programme in place to ensure that the centre is safe between visits.

When the time comes when we can open our residential facilities, we will limit group sizes so that we can follow the recommended social distancing guidelines in place at the time. This will be for both the sleeping accommodation, showering/changing facilities and the dining area.

OUR EQUIPMENT

We will be able to offer centre equipment, but welcome clients to bring their own if they have it, such as waterproof jackets/trousers, wellington boots, rucksacks. We have procedures for the storing and cleaning of used equipment to ensure that it is safe to use.

When the time comes that we can offer more technical activities, we will be following best practice for the use and cleaning of specialist equipment.

OUR TRANSPORT

Current restrictions mean that we cannot carry the usual number of passengers in our minibuses. We have received guidance from Cardiff Council supporting this.

As we start to offer activities away from school sites, we may be asking schools for assistance in transporting groups to local venues and, eventually, to the Storey Arms Centre.

MEDICAL MATTERS

We will ask schools to check on the morning of any activity that no pupil or member of school staff is displaying any symptom of Covid-19 however small (or any member of their household). We may have to cancel the activity session if necessary.

If anyone starts to feel unwell during the session, we will isolate them immediately, as well as the sub-group they are a part of. We will have procedures in place to deal with this possibility.

Wash those HANDS!