

## **Coronavirus (COVID-19). Access to public rights of way and green space areas – November 2020**

The new lockdown and associated restrictions on movement announced by the government<sup>1</sup> are relevant to public rights of way and the wider countryside and green spaces network.

The outdoors is a great place for exercise which has numerous benefits for health and well-being. However, people must still adhere to government rules for the safety of all.

Please also be aware that some people live in very close proximity to paths and green spaces - including residential moorings on canal and river towpaths and farmers. Please consider their need for social distancing, treat each other with respect and be aware that some of these people may continue to be in self-isolation because of illness or other vulnerabilities.

### **The rules to adhere to are**

1. Stay at home. This means you must not leave or be outside of your home except for specific purposes. One of which is to exercise outdoors or visit an outdoor public place.
2. You can use your local green space and public rights of way network to exercise on your own, with the people you live with, with your support bubble or, when on your own, with 1 adult person from another household.
3. Social distancing from anyone not in your household or support bubble and hygiene rules must still be followed.

### **Remember - 'Hands. Face. Space':**

- a. Hands – wash your hands regularly and for 20 seconds
- b. Face – wear a face covering in indoor settings where social distancing may be difficult, and where you will come into contact with people you do not normally meet
- c. Space – stay 2 metres apart from people you do not live with where possible, or 1 metre with extra precautions in place (such as wearing face coverings or increasing ventilation indoors)
4. Increase spacing when running and cycling. When moving at a faster pace give advance warning when approaching from the rear and stay alert by not using headphones or ear buds.
5. Carry, use and take home your tissues and other health products. Take care using or touching gates and other access furniture and hard surfaces. Do not spit or clear nose without tissues.
6. Where your usual exercise routes use canal towpaths, busy areas or narrow paths try to use other routes.
7. Although there's no evidence of human-animal transference of coronavirus, it is sensible to limit contact with other families' dogs and farm livestock.

Oxfordshire County Council  
Public Rights of Way Strategy & Operations  
[www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/countrysideaccess](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/countrysideaccess)<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> HM Government (2020) New national restrictions from 5<sup>th</sup> November 2020 <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/new-national-restrictions-from-5-november#protecting-people-more-at-risk-from-coronavirus>