

Keys points for managing Covid-19 risk during an Animal Care Session at Colchester Zoo

This risk guidance sheet provides a general outline of controls identified for Animal Care Education Sessions at Colchester Zoo. A more detailed risk assessment for the entirety of school visits is available online (www.colchester-zoo.com/plan-your-visit/schools-groups/education/plan-your-visit/risk-assessments). Detailed guidance for Colchester Zoo overall is also available online (www.colchester-zoo.com/plan-your-visit/information-faqs-2/covid-19-questions).

It is strongly recommended that **organisers create their own risk assessments based on this guidance**. Organisers can visit Colchester Zoo on pre-visit familiarisation trips to aid them in this. Please contact zoo staff if you require any additional information to help you plan your visit.

Teacher Responsibilities

Teachers and any supporting adults are responsible for the behaviour of their students at all times.

Prior to your visit:

- If schools have **confirmed cases**, we request they **cancel their visit** to Colchester Zoo

During your Animal Care classroom session:

- Ensure students **maintain social distancing** by remaining in the **designated seating area**
- All participants* must wear **face coverings** within all indoor areas of the zoo, which include the Animal Care session location
- Students must **wash hands/use hand sanitiser** prior to commencing tour

During your Animal Care behind-the-scenes tour:

- Ensure all students **maintain social distancing**, while moving around the zoo especially important as the group might be passing through tight areas or enclosed space to reach specific locations on the tour
- Follow staff guidance regarding **hand washing/hand sanitiser** prior to and after entering specific locations
- All participants* must wear **face coverings** during the entirety of the tour
- Participants must wear **appropriate footwear** (trainers/boots/wellingtons)
- Follow any staff guidance regarding **distancing from specific animal** enclosures, etc.
- **Do not handle any items** on the tour unless specifically directed to

*Children under 11, people with certain health conditions and people with a disability are exempt.

Colchester Zoo Responsibilities

Below are the key controls Colchester Zoo has put in place to mitigate the potential risk of Covid-19 during this session.

- Lead contact details are recorded for **Track and Trace**
- Zoo staff will **verbally confirm lack of participant symptoms** prior to session starting
- **Staff are temperature** checked daily and requested to stay home if they have any symptoms or have been exposed to people who do
- All zoo staff, including education staff and zoo keepers **will wear face coverings*** at all times during the session and tour

Animal Specific Biosecurity Procedures*

Due to confirmed and potential transmission between specific types of animals and humans, the following procedures and policies are in place:

- **Face coverings must be worn*** at all time in all keeper areas of animal enclosures
- **Big Cats** (tigers, lions, leopards, cheetahs) – a minimum of 2 meters social distancing required at all times when in proximity to the animals
- **Otters** – access to keeper areas, food preparation areas, etc. not allowed
- **Great Apes** – access to keeper areas, food preparation areas, etc. not allowed
- Other **primates** (including but not limited to lemurs, spider monkeys, tamarins, etc.) – minimum presence in proximity to these animals and gloves may be required

Note, this is subject to change based on emerging data and best practices