



Me2 Club COVID-19 Guidance for Families

No child is expected to return to their activity before they and their family feel comfortable for them to do so. Any child who does not return to their activity when it first resumes will still be able to access our current support offer which includes online activities, activity packs and the Facebook Parents Forum. Me2 Club cannot guarantee that every child's current volunteer will be able to support them when they return, however we will prioritise re-matching for all children who are due to return or start their activity.

We know that your child may need support in reconnecting with their existing volunteer and we will organise with you the best way to do this which may include a Zoom call or some time before your first session back to meet with your volunteer.

We are hoping to visit all existing matches at their activity once activities resume for a termly visit, where this is possible and in line with activity providers guidance. If for any reason an activity visit is not possible your allocated AVC will be in touch to discuss alternative support.

All activity providers and leaders are responsible for ensuring that COVID-19 safety guidelines are implemented and followed during the activity session. Families should make themselves familiar with and follow the guidance provided by both Me2 Club and by the activity setting. If parents or carers have concerns about the safety of their child or anyone else in the group, they should report this to the activity leader and speak to their AVC.

Me2 Club volunteers are classified as 'carers' and are therefore allowed to provide support to matched children provided COVID-19 Guidelines are being followed. The National Youth Association has advised that carers should not be included in numbers for bubble sizes.

COVID-19 symptoms:

- Your child should not attend an activity setting if they or a member of your household have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or have tested positive in the last 10 days.
- Your child should not attend an activity setting if your family have been advised by the NHS Test and Trace Service that they should self-isolate. They may only return once the period of self-isolation has finished.
- Your family should provide details of anyone your child has had close contact with if asked by NHS Test and Trace.
- If your child tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) please inform your Activities and Volunteers Coordinator.

Hygiene:

We appreciate it may not be possible for all children, but where possible please encourage your child to:

- Clean their hands thoroughly at the beginning of the session. This can be done with soap and water or hand sanitiser. Coronavirus (COVID-19) is an easy virus to kill when it is on skin.
- Cover their mouth and nose with a tissue or their sleeve (not their hands) when you cough or sneeze. Tissues should be put in the bin immediately children should wash their hands.
- Avoid touching their eyes, nose, or mouth if their hands are not clean.

Social Distancing:

We are encouraging our families, children and volunteers to follow the government guidance on social distancing, which is explained below.

- Where possible children and volunteers should follow social distancing guidelines with all members of the group and observe the 1 metre plus rule. This means they should stay 2 metres (3 steps) away from others, but if this is not possible, they may keep a distance of 1 metre with additional protective measures. These may include volunteers and children over 12 wearing a face mask if possible or unless exempt, limiting time with people and being outdoors. We understand that most children may not be able to wear a face covering.

The National Youth Association recognises that social distancing may not be practical for children under 8 or SEND children and advises that this should not stop provision. Some activity providers may have developed their own specific guidance on social distancing which differs from the government guidance. If this is the case, their guidance can be followed.

Level of physical interaction:

The children we support have a variety of different needs and the amount of physical interaction needed from their volunteer to take part in their activity is different for each child. Sport England advise that physical assistance can be provided by a carer outside of the child's household if the child's needs and preferences are considered.

- Some children require 'physical interaction' from their volunteers e.g. hand holding, short term hand over hand support – writing or cutting, sensory pressure, guiding to activity etc. If your child requires 'Physical interaction' volunteers will be required to wear a face covering and wash their hands/ use antibacterial gel before and after the physical interaction. Children should also be encouraged to wash their hands or use antibacterial gel before and after physical interaction.
- Some children will require significant 'physical support' from their volunteers e.g. personal care, hand over hand support to hold sports equipment, manual handling etc. If your child requires 'physical support' their volunteer will be required to wear PPE. Your AVC will advise on what PPE is required. For example, when providing personal care gloves, apron and face shield may be required.
- If your child usually requires physical interaction or physical support as part of their activity and you do not feel comfortable with this then please discuss with your AVC.

Children who are clinically vulnerable or clinically extremely vulnerable:

- If your child has a health condition that means they are clinically vulnerable or extremely clinically vulnerable, please inform your AVC so that an individual risk assessment can be carried out.

Support Me2 Club will offer:

- Me2 Club will continue to keep our guidance up to date as the situation changes to ensure parents and carers are clear what steps they need to take at activities to keep safe.
- If you have any concerns about your child returning to their activity or their safety after they have returned, these should be discussed with your allocated Activities and Volunteers Coordinator.
- We will also continue to stay in touch with families and work with them on how we can make the transition back to activities easier.