

COVID-19 – Information for Schools and Groups Visiting Blackpool Zoo

Schools should undertake full and thorough risk assessments in relation to their educational visits to Blackpool Zoo to ensure it can be undertaken safely, this must include COVID-19.

The Department for Education (DfE) has updated its guidance for educational visits. Any educational day visits must be conducted in line with relevant coronavirus (COVID-19) secure guidelines and regulations in place at that time. When planning a visit, you should take the current government guidance into account as part of your process of risk assessment, and then check it regularly in the days and weeks leading up to the visit and make any changes necessary to your plans.

Blackpool Zoo has assessed the risk of coronavirus and implemented control measures to prevent infection. Blackpool Zoo has reviewed the standard operating procedures to ensure that they include measures to reduce the risks from COVID-19. Our team participate in COVID-19 specific training programmes instructing them on how to stay safe as well as how to keep our guests safe. We have introduced personal protective equipment (PPE) requirements for our team. You will find hand sanitiser stations around the zoo for visitors to use. Enhanced cleaning will take place throughout the day and we will undertake deep cleaning measures in the event that a person presents themselves with symptoms consistent with COVID-19.

Prior to arrival

- Schools and groups will have a clear understanding of the role they play in managing the risk of COVID-19, this includes promoting and monitoring of good personal hygiene
- The school is responsible for ensuring individuals who are required to self-isolate do not attend the setting
- Schools and groups will be asked to confirm that their setting is 'COVID-free' and everyone on the visit is in good health and not showing any signs of COVID-19, this will be confirmed upon arrival

During the visit

- Regularly washing/sanitising hands including before and after touching shared objects such as activity equipment, before eating, after using the toilet, when getting on or off transport such as a minibus
- Avoid touching objects shared by other visitors – for example, a member of staff could hold a gate open to avoid everyone touching it
- A safe social distance should be offered to other visitors particularly in smaller, indoor animal houses
- Only one school at a time should occupy indoor eating areas. Tables and chairs should be cleaned after use and all rubbish left in sealed bin bags.