

Dear Sarah,

Thank you for your email.

In relation to re-opening play areas, whilst we are unable to advise whether specific measures are acceptable to comply with Government guidelines, we can advise what the insurance requirements are. Therefore I can confirm, the policy we arrange requires reasonable steps to be taken to prevent or protect against injury, illness, loss or damage arising. Provided such steps are in place and subject to all other policy terms and conditions being met, the policy will respond should a claim arise and the Council is found legally liable. The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) have published recent advice in regards to opening various facilities including play areas which will help Councils in this situation, in addition to their expectations on users (and/or their parents) of the facilities; <https://www.nalc.gov.uk/>. NALC have also advised that to support local councils, they have updated their sample Risk assessments for COVID-19 related activities so we recommend they are consulted.

The insurers have not issued any specific guidance on managing the risk of Covid-19 in regards to play areas or outdoor gyms. Whilst a revised risk assessment should be undertaken to take into account Covid-19, for further advice or guidance we recommend that you contact the consultants who undertake the annual inspection of the play/outdoor gym equipment. It is important that playgrounds are suitably safe for use and have an effective inspection and maintenance regime in place prior to opening.

We expect that playgrounds will be very heavily used, especially with the warm weather that the summer months bring and the eagerness of the public to start using them again, so it is vital that playgrounds are thoroughly inspected to ensure a satisfactory level of safety is in place. You also have a responsibility to remove any temporary barriers that may have been put up during lockdown which may also be hazardous.

You may find the following article from the RPII a useful reference point for further guidance <http://playinspections.co.uk/RPII-COVID19-Guidelines>.

Effectively, as the latest Government update is non-statutory guidance, whatever you are practically able to carry out is great and the insurance will still be in place. Although it would be very difficult for someone to prove, if someone contracts COVID-19 or any other illness (or are injured) and can explicitly prove the Council are liable for this, our policy will respond in the event of a claim under the Public Liability section.

I trust this clarifies but please let me know if you have any further questions.

Kind Regards, Mark Alexander  
BA (Hons), Cert CII, Client Adviser



Direct Dial 01483 462884, Office: 01483 462860

[mark.alexander@cameandcompany.co.uk](mailto:mark.alexander@cameandcompany.co.uk)

**Came & Company**, Blenheim House, 1-2 Bridge Street, Guildford, GU1 4RY,  
[www.parishinsurance.co.uk](http://www.parishinsurance.co.uk)