Mitigation for school visits – COVID 19

* General
* The risk factor for children and younger people (without underlying health conditions) is significantly less than for older people (including staff) and the wider community (where up to 1/3 of the population have underlying health conditions). The risk factor for clinically vulnerable people is very high and so the control measures must be implemented rigorously in order to lower the residual risk. The increased level of community vaccination reduces the risk of spreading the disease for all.
* Pregnant women should be made aware of the risk factors before supporting school visits and those in clinically vulnerable groups unless vaccinated should be excluded.
* Guidance will be given to schools, staff and volunteers regarding the NHS recommendations.
* Schools will be required to sign to agree with the statement that no one has been ill 7 days prior to the visit when they return their confirmation.
* Schools will be asked to bring the appropriate PPE for the possibility of a child or adult in their group becoming ill during a session
* Cogges will keep a record of all staff and volunteers supporting school sessions for no less than 21 days after a visit.

Spreading to staff and volunteers

* School bookings will not be taken on consecutive days.
* Learning Leaders should wear visors for all indoor sessions when guidance dictates (and may do so for outdoor sessions, but this is not required). Volunteers supporting activities should wear visors or face masks when guidance dictates.
* Indoor spaces will be kept well ventilated, with windows open.
* In enclosed spaces, only freelancers or volunteers who are required for the activity will be in that space.

Touching surfaces and resources

* No dressing up will take place.
* Gaps will be built in between sessions to clear and disinfect the working spaces. Any soft, or material resources will be taken away and washed. If washing is not possible the item will be left for 72 hours.
* Where possible children will use individual resources and they will be cleaned before each session and at the end of the visit.
* Hand washing will be carried out before any session where cooking takes place. In between sessions children will be encouraged to use sanitiser gel. If a child coughs or sneezes they will be asked to go and wash their hands.

Overcrowding

* Groups for on-site activities will be restricted to no more than 12 children per group. (Max onsite 60)
* To maintain bubbles breaks can be staggered.
* The picnic area by the sandpit will be reserved for school visit use only in good weather.
* To avoid cross contamination between school parties and public one toilet is provided for the school to use exclusively while on site. Toilets will be cleaned 3 times per day.
* Learning Leaders will be instructed to observe public access to the pigsties and other crowded areas and build their route around avoiding other groups. The one way system implemented for public safety should be followed at all times with school groups.
* All items taken away as part of a visit will be labelled and placed in individual bags.