



The  
**HARTHILL**  
Plot

*Covid Special*

*January 2021*

# **LOCKDOWN 3**

## ***How it affects Harthill***

**This is where we usually wish you a happy new year.** More of that later but as everyone knows we are now in the grip of a second national lockdown, our third if you include Tier Three. This does of course affect Harthill and at the end of this newsletter you'll find a letter to all allotment tenants from the City Council.

***The main point is that Harthill remains open.*** Tenants can visit their plot once a day as their permitted 'one a day' exercise. Whilst at Harthill all the normal national rules apply re social distancing, mixing and hygiene. We have taken steps to keep the site as safe as possible in line with the Council's instructions.

***The compost toilet is closed, as is the store.*** So you need to cross your legs and wait a while before buying any supplies.

***We have suspended manual payments of rent so please do try to pay by bank transfer*** - all the necessary details have been emailed to you. If for some reason this really is impossible please email us at [members@harthillallotments.org.uk](mailto:members@harthillallotments.org.uk) to make individual arrangements.

***We have not been told to close the hut but please take care when going in and we suggest that only one person at a time goes in.***

So, please take care everyone - we can still enjoy our allotments and use them to keep healthy, There's more advice on the next page.

***And finally, yes, despite everything - Happy New Year! Let's look forward to happier times.***

A picture of Harthill in the frost to cheer you up...



### **When you're visiting your allotment during lockdown.....**

- If your plot is next to the hedgerow can you prune the hedging back? This will make space for someone at a later date to get past using a long handled trimmer to cut the top of the hedge.
- It's time to prune apple and pear trees.
- If you have tall trees can you please reduce their height? Tall trees shade neighbouring plots.
- When you take manure please clear any spillage to a few feet off the track.
- If you have time can you pick litter along the sandstone wall? You'll be surprised how much you collect.

***MANY THANKS!***

***Letter to all allotment holders from the City Council - PLEASE READ.***

5<sup>th</sup> January 2021

**COVID 19 National Lockdown Allotment Site Access Update**

Dear allotment holders,

As you will be aware the Prime Minister has announced a National Lockdown in response to the rising Covid 19 infection rates. Lockdown measures will come into law from midnight 5<sup>th</sup> January.

Allotment sites will be allowed to remain open during the National Lockdown with the following access restrictions in place;

**Allotment access:**

- The allotment holder and members of their household and support bubble will be allowed to continue to access the allotment holders plot.
- No one outside of any allotment holder's household or support bubble should access any other allotment holder's plot whilst occupied by allotment holder's household or support bubble.
- Government guidance advises that you can meet one other person from outside of your household for exercise. If any allotment holder decides to do this it means that only; the allotment holder and one other person will be allowed onto the plot at any one time and social distancing of two metres adhered to at all times.

Further advice about what qualifies as a support bubble and exemptions can be found by visiting;

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home#support-and-childcare-bubbles>

Despite access being allowed onto allotments during the National Lockdown the overriding government message remains that you should stay at home, only take exercise once per day (attend allotment plots) and for as short a period as possible. If allotment holders decide to use their daily exercise to attend their plots the guidance below should be followed.

- Anyone who shows any COVID 19 symptoms must follow government guidance and self-isolate with all members of their household for 14 days.
- Crucially, stay at home if you have symptoms and get tested.
- Book a free test from the NHS website [nhs.uk/coronavirus](https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus) or call a new dedicated phone number 119, it's really quick and easy to do,
- Wash or sanitise hands regularly. This is important when touching surfaces others may have been in contact with such as on site taps and site access padlocks.
- When using plot access pathways maintain social distancing of 2 meters from anyone who is not part of your household or support bubble.

**Site operational changes:**

Committees-in-Charge at your allotment site have also been asked to close shared facilities such as toilets and stores for the duration of the lockdown. Committees may also have introduced their own control measures which we would urge you all to follow. Committees will also keep their allotments holders updated regarding changes to this year's plot rental income collection.

We appreciate that the current situation is frustrating and inconvenient for everyone but it is vital all allotment holders are sensible and follow the instructions issued which are for the benefit and welfare of everybody.

The restrictions above will be regularly reviewed and updated in line with government guidance.

For further information about National Lockdown restrictions please visit;

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home> or [www.liverpool.gov.uk](http://www.liverpool.gov.uk)

Information about and advice about how the National Lockdown is affecting allotment sites can also be found at; <https://www.nsalg.org.uk/>

Take care and stay safe.

Yours Faithfully

A Morrow

