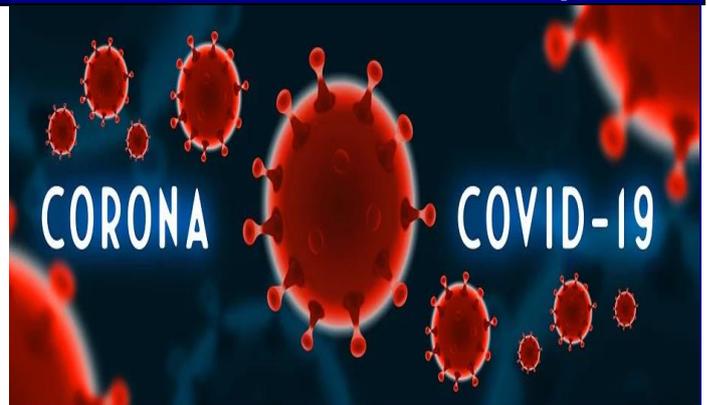


USRA **Addendum** to **Volunteer Policy Statement**

Version 1.0

April 2020

**ADDENDUM TO
VOLUNTEER POLICY
STATEMENT IN RELATION
TO THE NOVEL
CORONAVIRUS
SARS-CoV-19 and COVID-19**



Background

As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic communities all over the UK are required to show solidarity and work together to support those who are vulnerable or at risk in relation to Covid-19 and to support HM Government and the relevant local authorities in implementing measures to reduce risk and protect individuals, families and society as a whole.

The most recent requirements to stay at home (23 March 2020) make provision for others to go outside of their homes to support vulnerable people but of course at all times government advice on minimising the risk of infection must be followed.

The terms of this Addendum supersede the Policy Statement agreed in January 2019 for the duration of the Covid-19 emergency.



Volunteering during the Covid-19 pandemic

Volunteers are likely to be needed during the Covid-19 pandemic to undertake a range of tasks such as:

- Contacting isolated or vulnerable people by phone or videoconference to provide friendly human contact.
- Supporting people who are socially isolating in basic life activities such as collecting or delivering food, walking dogs and so on.
- Encouraging and role modelling the implementation of key measures to reduce the risk of infection such as social distancing and handwashing.
- Taking part in the volunteer rota to review emails to the dedicated Covid-19 support email (upperstoodley@gmail.com) and telephone number including taking calls received by the Association's mobile telephone.

Volunteer selection

Upper Stoodley Residents' Association welcome volunteers aged 18 or over from within the Residents' Association area.

Volunteers may be asked to show ID and to provide two referees who can confirm their identify, where this is necessary or appropriate.

Upper Stoodley Residents' Association particularly welcomes volunteers who have a current, clear, Disclosure and Barring Service certificate, so that they can help lead on volunteering activity. We do not currently have the capacity or authority to process DBS checks we will do so when this facility becomes available.

Volunteers who have an underlying health condition and/or who are 70 years of age or over will be asked to undertake voluntary activity which does not involve leaving the home: this is likely to be, primarily, making and maintaining telephone contact with isolated or vulnerable people.

Volunteers who are fit and healthy and are aged 18-69 will be asked to undertake voluntary work that may involve leaving the home to support a vulnerable person. This is permitted under the latest (23 March 2020) restrictions from HM Government.



Limitations to volunteer activity

In order to comply with HM Government advice on reducing the risk of transmission of SARS-CoV-2 (the coronavirus which causes Covid-19), to protect the health and wellbeing of volunteers, and to comply with Upper Stoodley Residents' Association safeguarding arrangements, the following rules apply to volunteering activity:

- HM Government advice on social distancing and preventing the transmission of the virus must be followed at all times
- No money and no bank cards must be accepted by volunteers on behalf of a client: clients using the volunteer service e.g. for food delivery, will need to arrange payment with the food provider directly either by telephone or email
- No money can be accepted for any voluntary work
- Any concerns about the safety of any individual must be brought to the attention of USRA's safeguarding lead or deputy safeguarding lead (see below) as soon as possible unless there is an imminent threat to health, wellbeing or life in which case the relevant emergency service should be called by dialling 999
- No advice on health issues may be provided by volunteers: this is exclusively the responsibility of qualified health professionals and concerned clients should be directed to <https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19> or NHS111 as appropriate
- Volunteers undertake voluntary activity at their own risk as USRA does not currently have employers' liability insurance. Volunteers should ensure that, as far as is possible, they are covered by their own insurance arrangements.



Safeguarding

Safeguarding is important to everyone and is a priority for the Upper Stoodley Residents' Association. Our safeguarding policy is on our website and any safeguarding concerns may be raised with our safeguarding lead, Martin Ashton, on 07736 483248 or deputy safeguarding lead, Michelle O'Gorman, on 07789 483286.

Privacy

Upper Stoodley Residents' Association has a privacy notice on our website at <http://usra.org.uk/privacy-policy> and this will guide our approach to supporting residents during the Covid-19 emergency.

However, the nature of our work during the Covid-19 period is such that we will need to share contact details between volunteers and clients, as well as sharing details with volunteers about clients' needs.

If you are willing to volunteer to provide support we need you to understand and accept that your contact details may be shared with clients who ask us for help and you are likely to be in receipt of information which may be sensitive or personal. We would expect you only to share sensitive information with Committee members or the duty volunteer if necessary for the purposes of the Association carrying out its work to support vulnerable people; wherever possible, consent from clients should be sought to share information.

24 March 2020