**Removing litter safely during Covid-19**

England - Following the latest government advice litter picking can now be carried out alone, in pairs or in small groups of up to a maximum of six, including yourself.

This is BMC guidance as of 24th June 2020 and Government advice on the lockdown and social distancing may tighten or ease over time, so please ensure you follow the latest advice on COVID-19 for your own safety and that of others.

* Stay at least 2 metres from fellow volunteer and members of the public
* **As of 4 July, stay at least 1 metre from fellow volunteer and members of the public**
* Always use a Litter picker
* Wear protective gloves
* Wash your hands (before and after your litter pick)
* Use your own bag, bucket or cleansing bag to collect litter in
* Don’t pick up litter with your hands
* Try not to touch your face whilst out litter picking
* Don’t pick any more than you can put in your own bin at home.
* Don’t pick up sharps/syringes
* Please keep hold of the litter pickers and bags to use again in the future and don’t share with other households
* Disinfect your equipment before and after use
* Once collected, you will need to dispose of your litter at home using your household general waste bins – your local authority might not have capacity to collect your litter bags during this time – please double check what your local service capacity is
* There is a national ‘Keep it, Bin it’ campaign, run by Defra with support from environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy, to encourage people to responsibly dispose of their litter
* To help keep you safe by following government advice, personal coronavirus waste (such as used tissues, face masks, disposable gloves, wet wipes or cleaning cloths) should be double-bagged, tied securely and kept separately for 72 hours, before putting into your general waste/wheelie bin at home.
* As summer approaches, be aware that certain areas could be very busy so you may want to consider the timing of clean ups e.g. in the evening / early morning and avoiding weekend times.
* Be aware of any ‘pinchpoints’ with lots of people congregating. Keep social distancing and wash hands after touching shared surfaces.

Wales – Wales has different regulations to England in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic and consequently, the rules on travel, exercise and where you can go and who with, are quite different to those in England. The regulations and guidance in Wales were changed on Monday June 1st and the new key message from Welsh Government is to “Stay Local”.

* No person may leave the area local to where they are living or remain away from that area. Welsh Government state that for most people anything within five miles of home is local
If your exercise (e.g. walking, running or cycling) starts and finishes directly from your front door, then there is no limit on the distance you can cover while undertaking that form of exercise
* If you stay local to the place where you live, you can carry out any form of outdoor activity including walking and litter picking.
* **From 6 July - travel restrictions will be eased meaning that people who live in Wales will be able to travel further afield**
* See specific litter picking guidance above (for England).

Government guidance on the lockdown and social distancing may tighten or ease over time, so please keep checking the BMC website for more information.