



SOCIETY OF GARDEN DESIGNERS® (SGD)

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) STATEMENT

18th March 2020

With COVID-19 (coronavirus) now classed by the World Health Organisation as a global pandemic, and as a result of the UK Government's recently published guidance for businesses and individuals to help suppress the spread of infection, the Chair and Council of the Society of Garden Designers® has introduced a number of temporary measures to ensure it continues to provide a high level of service for our members. These include:

1. SGD Council meetings will continue via conferencing facility
2. The SGD office will continue to operate as normal with staff generally working from home
3. The SGD Spring Conference 2020 has been postponed from 25th April to 18th July
4. The SGD Adjudication panels will run as normal
5. All SGD CPD and DDD's have been postponed for March and April. Further postponements may follow
6. The SGD will not be participating at industry events, currently including RHS Cardiff, RHS Chelsea, and RHS Chatsworth

The SGD will review all of these measures at each of its monthly Council meetings. The next meeting is due to take place on Tuesday 31st March.

The SGD is also working closely with other organisations in the industry.

WHAT IS COVID 19?

COVID-19 is a novel coronavirus (nCoV) which is a new strain that has not been previously identified in humans. It was first identified on 31 December 2019 in Wuhan City, China.

Coronaviruses are zoonotic, meaning they are transmitted between animals and people. Detailed investigations found that SARS-CoV was transmitted from civet cats to humans and

MERS-CoV from dromedary camels to humans. Several known coronaviruses are circulating in animals that have not yet infected humans.

Signs of infection include respiratory symptoms, fever, cough, shortness of breath and breathing difficulties. Severe cases can result in infection which can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome, kidney failure and death.

USEFUL LINKS

For up-to-date health guidance on COVID-19 in the UK visit nhs.uk/coronavirus

GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE

The government has announced that the UK is moving out of the 'contain' phase and into 'delay', in response to the ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. The UK Chief Medical Officers have now raised the risk to the UK from moderate to high. Read more about **current advice** here.

The Government has published its **coronavirus action plan** and expanded its **public information campaign**.

To read the **PM statement on coronavirus** (16th March 2020) click [here](#)

The Government has also published a number of COVID-19 Guidance documents, please click the links below to read more:

- **COVID-19: guidance for employees, employers and businesses**
- **COVID-19: guidance on social distancing and for vulnerable people**
- **COVID-19: stay at home Guidance for household with possible coronavirus (Covid-19) infection**

Go to **NHSUK/coronavirus** for information about the virus and how to protect yourself.

Read **Public Health England's blog post** about its response to coronavirus.

For **World Health Organization - Frequently Asked Questions** and more specific information on coronaviruses visit who.int/health-topics/coronavirus. For technical guidance notes [click here](#).