



COVID-19 Vaccinations and Testing

August 2021 (v.2)

We are aware that compulsory vaccinations and testing is a controversial area. In creating this policy we are working to maximise our ability to manage the public health risk of COVID-19 whilst minimising barriers to accessing retreats. Our testing and vaccinations policy is guided by general information from the Scottish government and current protocols common in other related sectors.

Testing policy

In order to reduce the chance of coronavirus spreading on a retreat we are asking people to take a lateral flow test immediately prior to arrival, and on every second day of the retreat (Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday). And, we are making compliance with this request a condition of attendance. This enables us to take rapid action should someone test positive, reducing the risk of cross infection, and increases confidence that the retreat is COVID free if all the tests are negative. Lateral flow tests are not 100% accurate but a negative test indicates a low risk that someone is currently infectious. In the event of a positive test at any time the retreat will end to minimise the risk of further cross infection. We do not have facilities for people to self-isolate on site so anyone who tests positive will need to be able to return home by a safe route (avoiding public transport). Individuals who test positive by LFT or are considered close contacts of people who test positive by LFT should get PCR test confirmations at home in accordance with the rules current in their area.

We recognise that mandatory testing will exclude a small number of people from retreats and as such it is a requirement that we will keep under review and keep in place no longer than the trustees feel is necessary.

Vaccination's policy

In line with current government policy, Dhanakosa does not have a requirement for retreatants to be vaccinated. We are aware that the use of "COVID status certificates" is being considered by the Scottish government for certain settings. Once this guidance is public, we will reassess the appropriateness of our current policy.

People who are vaccinated (Including those who are double vaccinated) should remember they may still catch and spread coronavirus.