****Hatching Programme

Guidance and Risk Assessment

**to include all Viral Infection Management**

**Specific measures taken by Barleylands in the management of viral containment/spread.**

The management of Barleylands have taken the following measures to arrest the spread of any viral condition.

Barleylands Staff and school staff/customer hiring equipment, must ensure hygiene measures are maintained together with handwashing as often as possible.

* Delivery and collection will only take place by booked appointment
* All equipment delivered is cleaned after each use by enhanced cleaning using antibacterial cleaning materials.
* Monitoring of the regime put in place to be carried out to ensure it is working. Adjustments to me made if it is found adjustments are needed.

**Risk Assessment:**

**Please see below our risk assessment. In line with Government guidelines, all our equipment undergoes enhanced cleaning procedures before being delivered to your school/setting.**

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| **Potential Hazard**  | **At Risk** | **Potential to cause harm prior to Control Measures being applied** | **Control Measure** |
| Possible Injuries from chicks | Adults/Children | Low | No risk of injury – Chicks are unable to injure by pecking or scratching and suitable for handling by children under supervision. |
| Virus or germs from chicks | Adults/Children | Low | As with the handling of all animals, we strongly urge the washing of hands after handling. Teachers/adults and children are advised to keep fingers away from their mouths during a session. |
| Allergies | Adults/Children | Low | There are some children and adults allergic to egg substances. The school/setting/customer is responsible for checking with parents any allergies of anyone handling and in contact with the chicks. |
| Electrical Equipment | Adults/Children | Low | Children to be kept away from electric supply. All equipment is low wattage and pat tested. The brooding lamp is ‘cool touch’ |

**Avian Influenza (Bird Flu) Update - November 2022**

* We advise children, adults and staff within your setting who keep birds to refrain from handling the hatched chicks during the current situation.
* If anyone in your school/setting wishes to keep the chicks, they will need to be kept inside. If you are planning to keep the chicks, please inform us **immediately** so we can advise you of the guidelines.
* Avian Influenza is a disease of birds and although the H5N8 strain can transmit between wild birds and poultry, it DOES NOT transmit to humans. Furthermore, birds hatched in schools, nurseries and other settings are housed indoors and will never have been/will not be in contact with wild birds or other poultry and therefore will not be at risk from this virus.
* Although we cannot predict possible future outbreaks or further government restrictions, please rest assured that we are monitoring the situation very closely to ensure we continue to follow government guidelines.
* We will of course keep settings informed of any future developments in the unlikely event that these should affect your booking.
* Further government information and up-to-date announcements relating to Avian Influenza can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs>.