



## **Covid-19 Statement**

Date of last update: 26 June 2020

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### **Why the Waterworks Museum will not be re-opening in July**

Following the outbreak of Covid-19, the Waterworks Museum closed on 13 March 2020 and the Museum will remain closed until further notice.

Social distancing in a Victorian Waterworks, and on a small site, is complex and requires investment and new volunteers in order to open safely and comply with the requirements of social distancing. The reduction in social distancing from 2m to 1m (with mitigations) introduced on 24 June 2020 does not change our assessment of Covid-19 risk.

The Directors will re-open the Waterworks Museum as soon as we assess it safe for visitors to return. This is likely to be in the autumn of 2020 (at the earliest) as we need time to make the structural changes necessary to create a one-way route to tour the Museum and to procure and implement other safety precautions. Please remember that this Museum is run wholly by Volunteers so we may not always be able to respond as swiftly to changing circumstances as some other museums.

Currently, all family open-days and events to the end of September 2020 have been cancelled. If we are able to open in October 2020 we may, or may not, be able to proceed with scheduled events, which would be subject to risk assessment nearer the time.

When we have agreed a date for re-opening the Waterworks Museum, we will make an announcement and update our pre-visit information so that visitors will know what to expect and can plan accordingly. For example,

- it may be that a re-opening of the Waterworks Museum will be on a phased basis
- we will explain our arrangements for managing social distancing and protecting the health and wellbeing of our visitors and volunteers
- some exhibits may be viewable only by booking a timed slot on arrival
- the Museum café will remain closed for the foreseeable future (but we have excellent picnic facilities).

Whilst the Waterworks Museum is closed please continue to support our volunteers by following our activities on social media. This is a great way that our members, supporters, and friends can help maintain the public profile and awareness of the Waterworks Museum. Thank you.

Twitter <https://twitter.com/WaterworkMuseum>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/WaterworkMuseum>

You Tube [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLGPW\\_ZFzGyHcC8TELroGQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLGPW_ZFzGyHcC8TELroGQ)

For more information please email [info@waterworksmuseum.org.uk](mailto:info@waterworksmuseum.org.uk).

**Richard Curtis (Chairman)**

#### TIMETABLE

Museum Directors have taken a phased approach to assessment Covid-19 risk for visitors and have only re-assessed the situation when new information became available.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Announcement</u>
13 March 2020	The Waterworks Museum was closed to volunteers and visitors with all events cancelled to 30 April 2020, which was 10 days before the Government imposed a lockdown on 23 March 2020
29 March 2020	Closure extended to 30 June 2020
15 May 2020	Closure extended to 30 September 2020
26 June 2020	Confirmation of closure until at least 30 September 2020 following the Government announcement on 24 June 2020 that museums and visitor attractions in England may re-open from 4 July 2020.