

# Coronavirus (COVID-19): Risk Assessment and Method Statement for return to competitive football from **29 March 2021** and season 2020-21

**Assessment date:** 29 March 2021 **Assessed By:** Andrew Frapwell, Droitwich Spa BGFC Covid-19 Officer

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**The purpose of this document is not simply to satisfy a league requirement, rather to:**

1. Create a club culture of safe practice amongst participants to keep players safe
2. Ensure all participants take responsibility for their actions and behaviors
3. Monitor safe practice to avoid complacency


*The risk matrix below has been used in the risk assessment on pages 2-6.*

			Likelihood of something happening				
			Very Unlikely	Unlikely	Possible	Likely	Very Likely
			1	2	3	4	5
Severity if it happens	Negligible	1	1	2	3	4	5
	Minor	2	2	4	6	8	10
	Moderate	3	3	6	9	12	15
	Major	4	4	8	12	16	20
	Extreme	5	5	10	15	20	25

## Notes:

- This RAMS document has been written using government guidance on the steps out of lockdown published 22 February 2021 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-response-spring-2021/covid-19-response-spring-2021-summary> as well as;
- the most recent FA guidance <https://www.thefa.com/news/2021/feb/22/grassroots-football-update-20210222> and updated Leagues guidance
- *The most recent updated guidance is in red font. Please read through ALL guidance.*

Hazard	Likelihood x severity	Control Measures	Likelihood x severity	Persons at Risk	Comment
<b>Exposure from others due to:</b> 1. Living with someone with a confirmed case of COVID-19. 2. Have come into close contact (within 2metres for 15 minutes or more) with a confirmed case of COVID-19. 3. Being advised by aPublic Health Agency that contact with a diagnosed case has occurred.	3 x 4 = 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To follow government guidance and stay at home</li> <li>Do not attend the game</li> <li>Maintain contact with the coaches via WhatsApp group</li> <li>To follow ongoing government guidance at all times from home</li> <li>Follow good NHS hygiene measures at all times</li> </ul>	1 x 4 = 4	Players, parents, coaches	<p><b>The current infection rate in Wychavon is n=50 in the last complete 7 days (to 28/3/21) Source = PHE</b></p> <p><b>All secondary school pupils and college students have access to Lateral flow tests twice a week. If a positive test is recorded they should not turn up to training or matches</b></p> <p><b>Primary school age children are not asked to test</b></p> <p>Confident that parents will not allow boys/girls to attend training if a family member is displaying symptoms</p> <p>The self-isolation period is 10 days</p>
<b>Suspected case whilst playing competitive matches</b>	3 x 4 = 10	<p>If a player, parent or coach displays or develops a high temperature (above 37.8°) a persistent cough or a loss of or change to their sense of smell or taste whilst attending a match they should:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stop playing / coaching / spectating immediately.</li> <li>Return home immediately if possible.</li> <li>Avoid touching anything.</li> <li>Cough or sneeze into a tissue and put it in the yellow disposable clinical waste bag, or if they do not have tissues, cough and sneeze into the crook of their elbow.</li> <li>Players must then follow the guidance on self-isolation and not return to training and playing / coaching or spectating until their period of self-isolation has been completed.</li> </ol>	1 x 4 = 5	Players, parents, coaches	<p>Confident that parents will take boys home immediately or collect following phone call</p> <p>If you have symptoms or have tested positive for coronavirus, you'll usually need to self-isolate for at least 10 days.</p> <p>You'll usually need to self-isolate for 14 days if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>someone you live with has symptoms or tested positive</li> <li>someone in your support bubble has symptoms or tested positive</li> <li>you've been told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace</li> </ul>

Hazard	Likelihood x severity	Control Measures	Likelihood x severity	Persons at Risk	Comment
Crowded access / egress to Site and Pitches	4 x 2 = 8	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coaches arrive 1 hour and 15 minutes prior to game to allow time to implement Covid-19 safety measures (<b>suggested arrival</b>)</li> <li>Wherever possible players, coaches and parents should follow best practice for travel including minimising use of public transport and walking or cycling to home games if possible</li> <li>Parents drop-off players no earlier than 60 minutes before the game start time. If parents wish to spectate* they should either; a. wait in cars and walk to pitch area shortly before the game or; b. adhere to social distancing rules behind the spectator barriers - avoiding congestion at all times</li> <li>If parking congestion parents are requested to park in overflow car parks or away from site.</li> <li>A congregation and hygiene station area on arrival will be designated for players – observing social distancing</li> <li>Cleaning materials (disposable tissues and disinfectant) will be provided to regularly clean equipment including <b>goal posts</b> before, <b>during</b> and after use</li> <li>Parents/players must inform coaches 24 hours in advance of availability</li> </ol> <p>* Parents may assist in erecting posts, nets and respect barrier. Coaches must monitor</p> <p>* <b>Only one parent per player is permitted to spectate</b></p>	2 x 2 = 4	Players, parents, coaches	 <p>Our club has printed signage to be placed at the access to the pitch</p> <p>The signage reminds players and parents of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>social distancing measures</li> <li>hygiene measures (washing hands, binning tissues etc)</li> </ul> <p><b>Regular reminders with players' parents will be communicated via WhatsApp / email prior to each game</b></p> <p>People from a household or support bubble can travel together in a vehicle and should all wear facemasks. <b>No shared car travel is permitted</b></p> <p><b>Parents who help coaches must follow hands-face-space guidance and disinfect equipment</b></p>

Hazard	Likelihood x severity	Control Measures	Likelihood x severity	Persons at Risk	Comment
Poor Hygiene	3 x 4 = 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Players will be expected to bring their own hand sanitiser and wash their hands thoroughly before and after the game and at half-time</li> <li>Players and coaches should avoid touching face/eyes/nose/mouth/equipment with unwashed hands</li> <li>Cover cough or sneeze with a tissue then throw it in <b>disposable bin bags</b></li> <li>Sharing of equipment sharing should be avoided</li> <li>Equipment <b>including goalposts</b> will be wiped down by coaches <b>(and/or parents)</b> prior to the game, at half-time and at the completion of the game</li> <li>Coaches and players will hand sanitise regularly including during the game</li> <li>Goal celebrations should be avoided</li> <li>Goalkeepers should ensure they disinfect their gloves regularly in breaks in matches and thoroughly afterwards</li> <li>Coaches and players must wear face coverings if changing rooms are available that allow social distancing measures to take place</li> <li>Wherever possible, players, coaches and officials should arrive changed and shower at home</li> </ul>	1 x 4 = 4	Players and coaches	<p>Alcohol-based hand-sanitiser should be brought to every home and away fixture (players and coaches)</p> <p>Tissues should be brought to every home and away fixture (players and coaches)</p> <p>Tissues and spare hand sanitiser will be provided</p> <p><b>The updated FA Guidance (22 February 2021) maintains frequent cleaning of equipment to mitigate the risk of Covid-19 infection</b></p>

Hazard	Likelihood x severity	Control Measures	Likelihood x severity	Persons at Risk	Comment
Working within two metres of other players / coaches working within two metres of the players	3 x 4 = 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In planning warm ups/warm downs always consider if the task can be performed without having to breach the 2m social distancing rule</li> <li>Limit face to face working of players - work sideways on from each other where possible</li> <li>Limit the frequency of working within 2m to an absolute minimum and ensure it is for strictly low intensity, sporadic work where exposure to this distance is less than 15 minutes</li> <li>Continue to conduct dynamic risk assessments whilst supervising the warm up and warm downs and speak up if there is a safer way of completing the task</li> <li>Coaches are to avoid sharing pens or other items / materials</li> <li>Coaches remain socially distanced in technical area and from players</li> <li>Players, coaches and officials should arrive changed and shower at home</li> </ul>	1 x 4 = 4	Players and coaches	<p>Although the social distancing rule is impossible when making contact with opposition players during games, the purpose is to minimize the risk of infection</p> <p><b>The FA Guidance (22 February 2021) maintains further limiting contact activities as part of any warm up.</b></p> <p><b>No goal celebrations</b></p> <p><b>Free kicks / corners etc., should be taken quickly</b></p>

Hazard	Likelihood x severity	Control Measures	Likelihood x severity	Persons at Risk	Comment
Accident requires Emergency First Aid	2 x 4 = 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We have NHS standard PPE for Coronavirus (Covid-19) where emergency first aid has to be administered</li> <li>Disposable gloves and eyewear <b>should be</b> available to prevent and reduce potential contamination</li> <li>Reusable PPE should be thoroughly cleaned after use and not shared between coaches. These <b>should be</b> stored in resealable bags in the First Aid bag</li> <li>Single use PPE should be disposed of so that it cannot be reused and to control potential contamination is controlled (waste should be placed in <b>disposable bin bags</b>).</li> </ul>	1 x 4 = 4	Players and coaches	<p>The statistics indicate that an accident requiring emergency first aid is minimal</p> <p>PPE equipment should be face fit tested by the coaches</p> <p><b>Face masks and gloves should be worn by coaches / first aiders if treatment requires close contact</b></p>

# Method Statement

## Prior to Games

### Club:

- ✓ Covid-19 officer appointed: Andy Frapwell [andrew@afTLC.com](mailto:andrew@afTLC.com) / 07803 603450
- ✓ The Covid-19 officer will develop RAMS in liaison with club committee
- ✓ The Covid-19 officer will contact all team managers and coaches every time there is updated FA/government COVID-19 guidance
- ✓ Our Club has ensured they are affiliated to Worcestershire County FA for the 2020/21 season
- ✓ Check insurance policies are up to date and cover return to competitive football during the Covid-19 pandemic
- ✓ **Ensure that NHS test and trace QR codes and registering systems are in place for each venue**

### Coaches

- ✓ Ensure that all relevant documentation and Risk Assessments are in place and understood by all coaches, players and parents
- ✓ Keep a register of players who attend matches for the sole purpose to support NHS test and trace efforts. This information will be stored for a minimum of 21 days in-line with government guidance and in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and GDPR principles
- ✓ **Communicate with parents who spectate to register attendance at matches using the NHS test and trace QR code which will be on site at all venues**
- ✓ Ensure PPE equipment is available and used as per manufacturers guidelines
- ✓ Ensure coaches, players and parents understand their roles and responsibilities
- ✓ Ensure access and operational details / times etc. have been confirmed by the club secretary / Mark Hancock
- ✓ Ensure equipment has been thoroughly cleaned / wiped down (poles, cones, dots, balls)
- ✓ **Provide a briefing reminding players of the Covid-19 measures in place for games (even if the referee provides a similar briefing)**

### Parents

- ✓ Ensure club information is passed onto players
- ✓ Please provide hand sanitiser for players
- ✓ **Register with NHS test and trace, using smart phones and the QR codes at our playing venues**
- ✓ **Only one parent per player is permitted to spectate**

### Players

- ✓ Prepare your own: water bottle, hand sanitiser, clean kit and (if necessary gloves and face mask)
- ✓ Should you be feeling unwell or displaying symptoms such as a temperature or persistent cough, let the coaches know you will not be attending training or games

## On arrival at Playing Venue

### Coaches

- ✓ Arrive at Pitch allowing time to complete the below, allow more time than normal to follow these RAMS
- ✓ **Register attendance using the QR code for NHS test and trace purposes**
- ✓ All equipment should be wiped down and then placed at its location by the coaches **or by parents who are helping**
- ✓ During laying out of equipment coaches will monitor the area to ensure there is no public access
- ✓ Once layout is complete a walk around by all coaches will be completed prior to the event to ensure the layout allows for the players to social distance and warm up safely
- ✓ The First Aid kit (including the PPE) will be located in the dugout / half-way line
- ✓ The equipment should be supervised by coaches if not being used
- ✓ If game requires linesman wipe down and provide your nominated linesman with a flag

### Parents

- ✓ If providing a lift for players, please drop off no earlier than 10 minutes before the scheduled meet time to avoid congestion. If there are no spaces in the venues car parks please park in the over flow car park or road close to the venue.
- ✓ **No lifts should be provided for players outside of your household/bubble**
- ✓ If watching the game please either wait in the car until nearly kick off or make your way to the nominated pitch and socially distance behind the barriers
- ✓ **Register attendance using the venue QR code for test and trace purposes**
- ✓ **Rule of 6 (no groups larger than 6) or two households whilst spectating**
- ✓ **Only one parent per player is permitted to spectate**
- ✓ **No congregating before or after games**

### Players

- ✓ Arrive and leave changed and shower at home
- ✓ Observe social distancing and hygiene measures
- ✓ No handshakes when meeting team mates or coaches
- ✓ Use the designated toilets, which should be open pre-match, during the match and for 30 minutes afterwards
- ✓ Make your way to the nominated pitch as directed by the coaches, locate in the designated arrival area and layout your accessories (hand sanitiser, tissues etc) as directed by the coaches
- ✓ Only access equipment when directed by the coaches



## During the Game

### Coaches

- ✓ All coaches should administer hand sanitiser before the session
- ✓ All incidences / accidents must be reported to the club secretary
- ✓ Any PPE equipment if used must be used in accordance with the manufacturer's guidelines
- ✓ Ongoing monitoring of the identified hazards should be conducted
- ✓ When addressing players huddles should be avoided
- ✓ Avoid shouting / raising voice if close to players

### Parents

- ✓ Please stand in the designated spectator area behind the barriers and observe social distancing
- ✓ Allow players / coaches to retrieve stray footballs / try to use feet rather than hands to retrieve footballs
- ✓ **Rule of 6**

### Players

- ✓ Explicitly follow the instructions of the coaches
- ✓ Question any instruction you are not comfortable with
- ✓ Take on fluids at half-time – do not share bottles
- ✓ Goal celebrations should be avoided
- ✓ Set plays, free kicks, corners and penalties should be taken quickly and not delayed
- ✓ Substitutes should social distance if seated in the dug outs / at the side of the pitch
- ✓ Avoid shouting at a team mate or opposing player if face to face
- ✓ No spitting of saliva or fluids is allowed
- ✓ When the game is paused, stand away from other players and equipment / refrain from picking up footballs
- ✓ No eating is allowed
- ✓ **Players should be responsible for their own bibs and not share with other players**
- ✓ **Observe social distancing - especially when waiting with team mates to be subbed on**

## Game End

### Club hospitality

- ✓ Until our Club state otherwise there will be no changing rooms provided.
- ✓ Until our Club state otherwise there will be no hospitality provided after the game

### Coaches

- ✓ Before dismissing players ensure all accessories have been collected
- ✓ All coaches will be responsible for the safe removal of equipment
- ✓ Spare items of player kit must not be taken home
- ✓ The equipment should be wiped down (disinfected) before being stored or removed
- ✓ A walk around of the site by the coaches will be completed to check the area is clear and free from all equipment and PPE
- ✓ A staggered dismissal of each team and players is preferable to ensure social distancing is observed
- ✓ Hand sanitise
- ✓ Maintain a record of cleaning of equipment and washing of bibs etc
- ✓ Team Sheets should be exchanged electronically with the match official and opposition
- ✓ Match official fees should be made electronically

### Parents

- ✓ If spectating please ensure players have all the accessories, they arrived with
- ✓ There will be a staggered dismissal when exiting the nominated pitch – please be patient
- ✓ **No congregating is permitted**

### Players

- ✓ Collect your accessories from the designated area
- ✓ Observe social distancing
- ✓ You may be asked to leave at staggered intervals by your coaches
- ✓ Hand sanitise
- ✓ **If sufficient shirts for one each then players should take shirts home to be washed**
- ✓ **If a large squad and insufficient shirts to go round, then shirts should be handed back to the coach**