

COVID-19 Guidance for Cricket in Wales at Alert Level 0

This guidance is updated for the move to Alert Level 0 in Wales, which came into effect on 7 August 2021.

Summary of key changes you need to know

On Saturday 7th August, Wales moved to Alert Level 0 of Covid restrictions. This means that most remaining legal restrictions regarding social contact, participating in regulated gatherings and meeting other people have been eased or removed entirely.

The summary key points are:

1. Legal group size restrictions both outdoors and indoors are now removed (including spectator number restrictions), *however* venues should still exercise caution and risk assess the number of people who can reasonably attend and circulate around the facility. Venue owners/managers should still take all reasonable measures to limit the transmission of the virus.
2. Remember No Participants = No Game. NHS Wales Test, Trace, Protect is still in place and self-isolation of both COVID positive individuals and identified close contacts who are over the age of 18 and have not had 2 doses of the vaccination remains a requirement.
3. Changing rooms can be used, however this should still be risk assessed and capacity limited as per the requirement to take reasonable measures to limit virus transmission. Participants are also advised to limit time spent in such facilities, especially in close contact with others.
4. Free NHS lateral flow testing is available to clubs and The ECB encourages clubs to take this up.
5. There are no domestic travel restrictions. Participants should continue to follow Government advice on international travel for any fixtures / tournaments.
6. Adults and children over 12 must continue to wear [face-coverings](#) in indoor public places, with the exception of hospitality settings such as restaurants, pubs or cafes.

Your COVID Risk Assessment

Your COVID risk assessment is a critical tool - and remains a legal requirement as a venue owner/event organiser - for assessing and addressing the COVID risks that still remain, it is also a requirement under your health and safety obligations as an employer.

Keep it under review as guidance changes and adapt your plans accordingly.

ECB Guidance for Recreational Cricket in Wales

Reducing the risk of spreading COVID

There are three key weapons in the fight against the virus are **good hygiene, social distancing** and **good ventilation**:

Good Hygiene

- Keep cleaning spaces, surfaces and touch points frequently.
- Make hand sanitiser available throughout your venue (we have partnered with Lifebuoy on offers for cricket clubs available [here](#)).
- Consider keeping hygiene breaks in play.

Social Distancing

- Minimise close contact with others – especially indoors. You should always co-operate with any social distancing, as dictated by local risk assessment.

Good Ventilation

- Ventilate your indoor spaces by opening windows and doors and using suitable mechanical ventilation where available.
- Minimise your time indoors and keep outdoors where possible.

Playing the Game

Clubs, leagues and all participants should remain vigilant and are reminded of the Welsh Government requirement for venue owners and event organisers to take reasonable measures to limit potential transmission of the virus.

Cricket remains a naturally socially distanced game and adaptations on the field such as limiting wicket celebrations, not shaking hands, not handing caps and jumpers to umpires, and undertaking regular sanitisation breaks are relatively small adaptations, which we recommend remain at Alert Level 0 in Wales, as reasonable measures to limit transmission of the virus.

No Participants = No Game: Close contacts and Self Isolation

NHS Wales Test, Trace, Protect and the self-isolation of close contacts remains in place and will affect player availability. Examples of close contact include:

- face-to-face contact under 1 metre for any length of time – including talking to someone or being coughed on
- being within 1 metre of each other for 1 minute or longer
- being within 2 metres of each other for more than 15 minutes in total in 1 day
- travelling in the same vehicle

If a player tests positive on a team there is not a need for the other players to self-isolate, unless they were in close contact (who has not had two doses of the Covid-19 vaccine), have been contacted by Test Trace Protect, they develop symptoms or test positive themselves. Therefore, players and clubs should consider how they can reduce the likelihood of close contact occurring.

You must always follow self-isolation instructions from NHS Wales Test, Trace, Protect.

Face Coverings

Adults and children over 12 must continue to wear [face-coverings](#) in indoor public places, with the exception of hospitality settings such as restaurants, pubs or cafes – or if you are exempt for another reason.

Contact Details and NHS QR Code

Maintaining records of staff, customers and visitors is one of the reasonable measures you can take to minimise the risk of exposure to COVID-19 at your facility. By sharing these records with the NHS Wales Test, Trace, Protect service when requested, you can help to identify people who may have been exposed to the virus.

You can play an important role in helping your staff, customers and visitors to understand the value of the NHS Wales Test, Trace, Protect service. You can also demonstrate responsible business practice(s) in your venue by:

- Explaining why you are asking for contact information and encouraging them to provide it.
- Displaying a notice on your premises and on your website.

Changing Rooms

Changing rooms can be used where clubs feel able to make these available safely, subject to risk assessment and the requirement for the use of face coverings. However, given that the definition of close contact is not changing, participants may wish to consider this and minimise use of changing facilities where possible to avoid prolonged contact with people in a crowded space.

Clubs should continue to communicate clearly with visiting teams and match officials on whether changing rooms and showers are available.

Spectators

While there are, legally, no limits on spectators for outdoor cricket, facilities should follow Government guidance on how to best manage crowds, particularly for bigger events and continue to take reasonable measures to keep participants and spectators safe.

Hospitality & Teas

Hospitality is permitted, subject to any standing industry-specific guidance.

Teas can be served where venues feel this can be done safely. Clubs should continue to communicate clearly with visiting teams and match officials on whether teas will be provided. Players and match officials should be prepared to bring their own food and beverage if required.

Keeping Your Clubhouse and Equipment Clean

Keeping your clubhouse clean will reduce the risk of passing the infection onto other people. To achieve this, your cleaning procedures should be thorough and rigorous. A cleaning schedule could include:

- Daily cleaning throughout the clubhouse and facility;
- Identifying high-contact touch points for more regular cleaning (e.g. door handles, grab rails, vending machines);

- Frequent cleaning of work areas and equipment between use;
- Cleaning of shared training equipment after each individual use;
- Having waste facilities and more frequent rubbish collection;
- Removing any non-essential items that may be difficult to clean.

Inspecting The Condition of Your Facility

If parts of your facility have not been used for some time, a thorough building inspection and walk-round will allow you to identify any issues and damage. This will help you plan what work needs to be carried out and should include water quality (e.g. for Legionella and other contaminants), drains, gas services, ventilation, alarms/safety systems and pest control.

NHS Free Lateral Flow Tests

Rapid lateral flow tests help to find cases in people who may have no symptoms but are still infectious and can give the virus to others. These are currently distributed free by the Government, and you can order packs to be sent to a home address.

First Aid

Continue to follow guidance from St John's Ambulance on First Aid during COVID, available [here](#).

Travel

All participants may travel to games with no restrictions in place for domestic travel but participants are encouraged to continue to exercise caution when travelling.

If there are no alternatives to car-sharing with people with whom you do not live, you should take steps to minimise the risk of coronavirus, such as increasing physical distancing as much as possible and wearing a face covering.

Face coverings are still mandatory on public transport, unless you are exempt.

Any international travel should be in line with Government advice. Players and clubs should consider how they can reduce the likelihood of close contact occurring.