



COVID-19 Guidance for Cricket in Wales at Alert Level 1

This guidance is updated for the move to Alert Level 1 in Wales, which came into effect on 17 July 2021.

Summary of key changes you need to know

On Saturday 17th July, Wales moved to Alert Level 1 of Covid restrictions. This means that a number of legal restrictions regarding social contact and participating in regulated gatherings and meeting other people will be removed or eased.

The summary key points are:

1. Legal group size restrictions outdoors are 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. A maximum of 200 people standing and 1,000 seated can take part in indoor organised activities and events as part of a regulated gathering.
3. Remember No Participants= No Game. NHS Wales Test, Trace, Protect is still in place and self-isolation of both COVID positive individuals and close contacts remains a requirement.
4. Changing rooms can be used, however this should be risk assessed and capacity limited to enable social distancing and participants should limit time spent in close contact with others in such facilities.
5. Hospitality is permitted subject to standing restrictions.
6. Free NHS lateral flow testing is available to clubs and The ECB encourages clubs to take this up.
7. No domestic travel restrictions. Participants should continue to follow Government advice on international travel for any fixtures/ tournaments.
8. Car sharing is not recommended with people who are not part of your household or extended household. Where it cannot be avoided face coverings should be worn.

Changes to 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

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 sanitisation breaks are relatively small changes, which we recommend remain at Alert Level 1 in Wales.

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.

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, 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.

The ECB has provided a decision making framework to help clubs and leagues navigate self-isolation decisions, please refer to this.

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

Face Coverings

Face coverings are still required in law in all indoor settings in Wales, unless you are exempt.

Contact Details and NHS QR Code

There is still a legal requirement for certain high risk businesses in Wales to collect information from customers, staff and visitors. Premises which are required to collect details of staff, customers and visitors must continue to do so, including people who check in through the app.

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 restrictions

Teas can be served where 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 as 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 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. Welsh Government does not recommend that you share a car with people who are not part of your household or extended household unless it is necessary and there are no other alternatives. Where it cannot be avoided, you should take steps to minimise the risk of coronavirus such as increasing physical distancing as much as possible and wearing a face covering. 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.

Your COVID Risk Assessment

Your COVID risk assessment remains a valuable tool for assessing and addressing the COVID risks that still remain and it could be necessary under your health and safety obligations as an employer. Keep it under review as guidance changes and adapt your plans accordingly.