



FAI COVID-19 Club Webinars

19th to 22nd April – Submitted Questions

- 1. I have a question that is not answered in this document, who do I contact for information?**

Please email covidchecklist@fai.ie and one of our team will respond to you.

Section A: Protocols

- 1. Can further clarification be provided on what is a close contact, and what is a casual contact?**

A close contact is deemed to have occurred when a person is in face to face contact with a positive or suspected case (result of test awaited) for more than 15 minutes, inside a 2-metre distance.

Close Contacts need to self-isolate for 14 days pending contact and subsequent testing by Public Health.

Close Contacts in the context of training and playing are most likely to occur in the following circumstances:

- Shared car journeys.
- Shared dressing rooms.
- Contacts on the field of play (training or playing) are considered casual contacts.
- Casual contacts are not required to restrict their movements or self-isolate.

- 2. What are the protocols around a suspected case?**

- Immediately separate any person displaying or complaining of COVID-19 related symptoms from players and coaches.
- Provide the suspected case with a face mask as soon as possible.
- The designated person managing the situation should try to maintain at least 2 metres from the person with symptoms and should wear a face mask.

- Provide the person with tissues and hand sanitiser and ensure that all tissues are disposed of in a waste bag that can be tied and marked as separate from other waste.
- If they are well enough to go home, arrange for them to be transported home by a family member as soon as possible and advise them to inform their general practitioner by phone of their symptoms.
- If they are too unwell to go home or advice is required, contact 999 or 112 and inform them that the sick person is a COVID-19 suspect.

3. What are the protocols if a player is a close contact of a suspected case/close contact? Is there steps to follow whilst waiting for a test result and actions to take if the result is positive or negative?

Please consider the following questions.

1. *Has the player travelled with other players or staff members to games and training over the past 14 days?*

If the answer is yes, the player and those he/she travelled with should stand down until test results are known and public health have completed their contact tracing process. If the answer is no, there is no requirement for anyone other than the player to stand down.

2. *Has the player socialised with other squad members over the past 14 days?*

If the answer is yes, the player and those he/she travelled or socialised with should stand down until test results are known and public health have completed their contact tracing process. If the answer is no, there is no requirement for anyone other than the player to stand down.

3. *Has the player been in a dressing room, meeting room or on a team bus for 15 minutes or more with the full squad over the past 14 days?*

If the answer is yes, the player and those he/she travelled with should stand down until test results are known and public health have completed their contact tracing process. If the answer is no, there is no requirement for anyone other than the player to stand down.

If the suspected case tests negative, the close contact is no longer deemed a close contact and there is no requirement for anyone to stand down.

4. Can players from different counties or Northern Ireland attend training sessions?

Coaches and players are permitted to travel within their own county or outside their county up to a maximum of 20km beyond their residence for training. All relevant authority

guidelines should be adhered to at all times.

5. For U18 children, can one parent be present during the training session?

A parent or guardian is allowed to accompany any player under the age of 18 to training and may remain at the venue for the duration of the training session. However, please only attend if essential circumstances exist.

Any parent or guardian attending a training session must strictly observe 2 metres social distancing at all times. Strictly no gatherings of groups while training is ongoing are permitted. Protocols must be followed throughout the duration of sessions.

Adhere to club management protocols to include one-way traffic system and designated drop off points if applicable.

6. Should a record of temperature checks be kept of all individuals entering the club grounds and do they need to be reported?

No, this is not a requirement.

7. Should parents who are present during the session as an observer be recorded on contact tracing lists?

No, but if they need to stay, they should keep their distance from the training pod.

8. Is there any changes to the protocols or increased risk to be cognizant of when taking into account more transmissible variants?

Please adhere to all protocols and reinforce the messaging provided by Government and HSE.

9. Should coaches/players be asked to complete a Health Declaration before every training?

It is not a requirement but it is at the discretion of the club if they wish to include this within their own local protocol.

10. Is there any technology developed by the FAI that can be used by clubs to manage protocols i.e. Health Declaration & Contact Tracing?

No, there is no technology available. It is at the discretion of the club as to how they

document information.

11. How long should you keep attendance lists?

4 weeks – This is required in the event of retrospective tracing.

12. Is there any actions that a club needs to take to return to training?

- All clubs must complete a COVID-19 Checklist for 2021 prior to returning to training.
- Clubs must confirm appointment of COVID-19 Compliance Officer(s) to FAI via the checklist prior to returning to training.
- Clubs must ensure, through their Compliance Officers, that all coaches, parents/guardians and players are fully aware of their responsibilities

13. Does the 'Return to Training' Checklist need to be emailed back to FAI before the 26th April?

The checklist needs to be returned to covidchecklist@fai.ie before any commencement of training from the 26th April.

14. Does the checklist from last June need to be resubmitted this year if nothing has changed?

Each club needs to submit a 2021 COVID-19 Compliance Checklist prior to commencement of training.

15. Does the risk assessment have to be submitted with the FAI Covid Checklist?

No – it is held by the club and updated when required.

16. Will mask-wearing and the wearing of other PPE be applicable to any person (player, parent, coach) when attending/dropping off for a training session?

No, it is not a requirement to wear a mask or PPE unless attending to an injured player on the pitch.

17. Can clubs and coaches have input into the Return to Play protocol?

Our protocols are developed by an Expert Group with representation from different strands of the game in consultation with Sport Ireland, HSE and Government.

18. Are 15 minute time-gaps between sessions necessary?

A 15-minute gap between sessions must be implemented if consecutive training sessions are scheduled on the same training area. Keep training times staggered to ease the flow of arrivals and departures of players and coaches.

19. Can indoor facilities be used?

No indoor gatherings/meetings are permitted.

20. Can a player/coach be training with two teams i.e. two teams in a club, club and ETP, club and academy etc.?

This is fine once all protocols are followed in all sessions at all times.

21. Is it the responsibility of the club to ensure players adhere to protocols before, during and after the training session?

Personal responsibility is most important here and should be reinforced with coaches at all times. If protocols are not being adhered to, the club should address it as it sees fit.

22. Can toilet facilities be used?

Yes, access to sanitary facilities is permitted but access should be managed in terms of capacity at any given time.

Section B: The COVID-19 Compliance Officer

1. Does the COVID-19 Compliance Officer need to be at every training session?

Yes, no session should take place without a COVID-19 Compliance Officer present.

2. When taking attendance and submitting list of players who attended the session – how quickly does that have to be sent into the club COVID-19 Compliance Officer?

It is recommended that the list is submitted as soon as possible.

3. Can a coach take part in a session and act as a COVID-19 Compliance Officer?

No. The COVID-19 Compliance Officer is a separate role. Within clubs, coaches can cover another session they are not coaching in, but they cannot take two roles for the same session.

4. Could the protocol change in the future to allow one of the two coaches act as COVID-19 Compliance Officer?

No, this policy is determined by our Child Welfare and Safeguarding policy. Two coaches are required to be with the group at all times. A COVID-19 Compliance Officer may have to step away from the group for an undefined period of time to complete their duties.

Section C: Training Sessions

1. Will teams need to continue to train with reduced numbers in pods?

Yes, for underage training (Under 18), the maximum numbers is a Group of 15 (13 players and minimum 2 coaches)

2. In a pod of 15, how should teams that have more than 15 players manage their session?

It is at the discretion of the coach on how they split a team into pods.

3. If a team has a squad of 18 players can they have two pods with a coach in each pod?

No – each pod should have a minimum of 2 coaches present at all times.

4. How many players can we have on site/per pitch at any one time?

More than one team can train at a venue at any given time provided there is a clear buffer zone of at least 15 metres between the groups - pods of 15 including coaches.

5. Does the 15 metres buffer still apply if there is a natural divide between pitches in a specific area i.e. netting, cage, wall.

The buffer is not applicable if there is a natural or obvious boundary.

6. Does equipment need to be sanitized during a training session?

All training equipment – including goalposts - must be sanitized before and after every training session.

7. Will a curriculum of non-contact practices be provided for use of coaches?

Yes, non-contact coaching practices will be made available at <https://www.fai.ie/domestic/news/fai-safer-return-to-train-protocol> in the week beginning 26th April.

8. What are the minimum dimensions of a training area required for a pod of 15?

It is suggested that training areas should allow for all players to have a static 2 meter radius. A minimum area of 30m x 25m would allow this for a group of 15. Please use as much space as you have available whilst allowing for the 15m buffer for other sessions.

Section D: Messaging

1. Is the messaging of previous signage still applicable?

Yes, all key messages still apply.

2. Will messaging please emphasise to players and coaches that the latest Government/Public Health advice must continue to be followed when travelling to training?

Yes, all messaging will be in line with Government & HSE advice.

Section E: Finance

1. Is the FAI providing a relief fund for clubs paying for infrastructure to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 and fixed costs given the loss of income?

The FAI carried out a Grassroots survey in January to gather as much information as possible on losses incurred by affiliates, leagues and clubs. We are engaged with Sport Ireland and Government on this and will announce details of any funding application opportunities as and when we can.

2. Does COVID-19 have an impact on our insurance policies?

Please consult directly with your insurance provider. Clubs are advised to inform insurers of their intention to return to training.

Section F: Miscellaneous

1. Are players that are 2003 born and have already turned 18 in 2021 permitted to return to train with Under 18 teams on the 26th April?

Players registered with Under 18 squads and younger can train.

2. Will clubs be subject to independent inspections during training sessions?

All stakeholders, including players, coaches, administrators and parents have a responsibility in ensuring the guidelines are adhered to at all times. In turn, this will ensure that our children can continue to participate safely in sport.

3. For clubs renting facilities for training sessions, is the duty of care to be in compliance with COVID-19 protocols the responsibility of the venue, of the group using the facility or do both have equal responsibility?

All parties involved in hosting and organizing the session have responsibility. Good communication between COVID-19 Compliance Officers of venue and club is encouraged to ensure all protocols are adhered to. If all individuals take personal responsibility in adhering to all protocols, our game will remain safe.

4. Can gym facilities in a club be used?

No indoor gatherings/meetings are permitted. Please continue to follow Government guidelines in relation to the use of gyms.

5. Can a coach who does private sessions take participants from a number of different clubs for sessions?

Yes. The coach should ensure that they are in compliance with the Safer Return to Train protocol.

- 6. If an individual deemed a close contact can only arise from activities that are not permitted by the protocol (e.g. being in dressing rooms together, on a team bus together), then why is it necessary that clubs have to maintain an attendance record?**

Clubs are required to keep contact details because if they have a positive case then Public Health services may require the full list to execute contact tracing.

- 7. If two clubs are are sharing the same facilities, do you need two COVID-19 Compliance Officers per club?**

Each club needs a designated COVID-19 Compliance Officer to attend each session.