## Procedures in Case of a Reported Covid-19 Infection

With the number of Covid-19 infections on the rise in this country, it must be accepted that from time to time, members of the club or their families may come into contact with the illness or develop symptoms themselves. These procedures are designed to minimise risk to all members and we ask all fencers and parents to make themselves aware of them.

**General**

* We maintain a register of names and contact details of everyone entering the club and will make these available to the authorities if asked.
* We will inform the relevant venues immediately of any reported cases.
* We recognise that it is not always easy to spot the onset of Covid-19 symptoms and that these can come on at any time, including during or immediately after a club session.
* We will operate a ‘no blame’ policy towards anyone reporting Covid-19 symptoms or positive tests. We ask all parents and fencers to be as quick and honest as they can with any concerns about symptoms in their family so we can take steps to protect the club.
* The anonymity of any infected person will be maintained to the best of our ability
  + Where possible, siblings will be spoken of as one fencer to minimise chance of identification and gender neutral terms will be used.
  + If fencers have been in the same grouping as an affected individual within 48 hours of the onset of symptoms then these fencers/parents will be informed that there has been a case but the individual will not be identified.
  + Coaches will be told the identity of the affected individual as they are likely to have been in closer contact during a session
* We will not permit any negative remarks towards children whose Covid-19 status may have caused the club to isolate or suspend sessions. In the unlikely event of these, they will be dealt with in accordance with our anti-bullying policy.
* Club procedures and risk assessments, particularly in the wearing of face masks and/or liners under fencing masks, are non-negotiable. Parents should feel confident that nobody will be permitted inside the training hall without a face mask (spare ones are always available). The health and safety of all members will always be the overriding priority.
* In order to minimise the possible contacts within the club setting, parents are asked to remain in their cars during sessions and not to enter the fencing hall unless asked to do so. For safeguarding purposes, the club will have a Welfare Officer or when one is not available, a designated parent observer at each session. Families should be very careful to observe social distancing when waiting outside the hall during drop-off and collection.

**If a participant develops symptoms during a session**If a participant becomes unwell with symptoms of COVID-19 (a new, continuous cough, or a high temperature, or a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell) during one of our sessions

* Parents (or emergency contacts) will be contacted immediately and arrangements made for the participant to return home.
* While this is being arranged, we will help the participant wait in an area away from the main group and any additional extra cleaning of the affected area will be undertaken.
* We will inform parents and other participants of this and keep them updated with any subsequent information about subsequent positive of negative Covid-19 test.

**General**

* If a fencer or their parent reports symptoms of Covid-19, we will suspend any further club activity until that person received a negative Covid-19 test OR the time of the onset of symptoms has been established.
* If a negative Covid-19 test is received, we will ask for a written confirmation of this for our files.
* If the time of the onset of Covid-19 symptoms is established and this is less than 48 hours since attending the club, then those who were in the same grouping as that fencer will be informed and club activities will be suspended for 14 days and replaced by online coaching.

**Parents and Fencers**

* Please be vigilant and careful in adhering to our policies. You can help us by ensuring that the Covid-19 screening is done well ahead of time.
* Please do not attend/let your fencer attend with any suspected Covid-19 symptoms
* Please inform us as quickly as you can if there are any suspected Covid-19 symptoms in you or your family.
* Parents please help your children to understand the need for anti Covid-19 rules and restrictions and support the coaches in enforcing them.

Appendix 1 : Government Guidance on Exposure and Isolation

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

**If You Develop Symptoms**

“If you develop symptoms you may wish to alert the people who you do not live with and that you have had close contact with over the last 48 hours to let them know that you might have COVID-19 but are waiting for a test result. At this stage, those people should not self-isolate. Alerting those that you have been in contact with means they can take extra care in practising social distancing and good hand and respiratory hygiene. They can also be more alert to any symptoms they might develop.”

**If You get a Positive Covid-19 Test Result**

“If you have [symptoms](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection#symptoms) of COVID-19 or a positive test, you must remain at home for at least 10 days after the onset of your symptoms”

“Other members of your household, including those who do not have any [symptoms](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection#symptoms), must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. Do not go out even to buy food or other essentials, and any exercise must be taken within your home. This 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in your house became ill or if they do not have symptoms, from the day their test was taken.”

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person>

**What is a ‘Contact’?**“A ‘contact’ is a person who has been close to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 anytime from 2 days before the person was symptomatic up to 10 days from onset of symptoms (this is when they are infectious to others). For example, a contact can be:

* people who spend significant time in the same household as a person who has tested positive for COVID-19
* sexual partners
* a person who has had face-to-face contact (within one metre), with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, including:
  + being coughed on
  + having a face-to-face conversation within one metre
  + having skin-to-skin physical contact, or
  + contact within one metre for one minute or longer without face-to-face contact
* a person who has been within 2 metres of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 for more than 15 minutes
* a person who has travelled in a small vehicle with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 or in a large vehicle or plane near someone who has tested positive for COVID-19

Where an interaction between 2 people has taken place through a Perspex (or equivalent) screen, this would not be considered sufficient contact, provided that there has been no other contact such as any of those indicated above.”

“If you have not been notified that you are a contact, this means you do not need to self-isolate and should follow the general guidance, for example, social distancing, hand-washing, and covering coughs and sneezes.”

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person#what-is-meant-by-a-contact>

Appendix 2 – Should I attend a Club Fencing Session/Lesson?

The chart below should give you a rough guide as to whether you should attend fencing sessions. **This should only be taken as a basic guide** - if you have any doubts, please always err on the side of caution and book a Zoom session instead!

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|  | I, or a member of my family, have received a positive Covid-19 test. | Do not attend. Consult the test and trace guidelines as to how long you should self-isolate and when you can return to normal activities. |
|  | I, or a member of my family have developed a new continuous cough and/or a loss of sense of smell or taste and/or a high fever | Do not attend. Arrange to have a Covid-19 test and isolate while you are waiting for your test results. |
|  | I have come into contact with someone who has Covid-19 and have been instructed to isolate by Test and Trace | Do not attend. Follow the instructions on self-isolation that have been given you. |
|  | My school year group has been sent home due to Covid-19 and I have received an email instructing me to isolate | Do not attend. Follow the instructions on self-isolation that have been given you. |
|  | I have recently returned from a country for which it is required to quarantine upon return | Do not attend. Follow the instructions on self-isolation that have been given you. |
|  | I have come into contact with someone who has Covid-19 but have not received instructions from Test and Trace | Assess whether you have been a ‘contact’ using the government guidelines above.  If you came into contact with this person less than 48 hours before they started to show symptoms, then you should not attend.  If in any doubt, please do not attend and seek advice on getting a test. |
|  | My school year group has been sent home due to Covid-19 and I have not received an email instructing me to isolate | Consult with our school as to whether you have been a ‘contact’ or whether it is their policy to send the whole year group home regardless of individual contacts.  If in any doubt, please do not attend |
|  | A family member has been in contact with someone who has had a positive Covid-19 test | At the present, government guidelines do not require the family members of a contact to isolate.  If in doubt, please do not attend |
|  | A sibling’s school year group has been sent home as a Covid-19 precaution. No advice on isolation has been given | It would be acceptable to attend the club but if in any doubt do not attend. |
|  | Neither I nor anyone in my family has had a positive Covid-19 test in the last 14 days, I do not have any Covid-19 symptoms and I have not come into anyone who has Covid-19 symptoms or a positive test. | Please attend! |