



## MANAGING VACANT BUILDINGS & OPERATING SAFELY GUIDE FOR RECREATIONAL CRICKET CLUBS

Following the global pandemic of COVID-19 (Coronavirus), all Government advice must be followed. Due to the rapidly developing nature of the outbreak clubs must ensure they are keeping up to date with the latest guidance and information which varies regionally and can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

For the purpose of Health and Safety, this guide is intended to assist clubs in the safe management of buildings and grounds whilst under lockdown. Information on how to manage nets and outfield under the new guidance for exercise outdoors in England can be found [here](#). The government has confirmed that during the emergency, work can be carried out on sports facilities by facilities and grounds management staff, as long as they adhere to social distancing measures and other health and safety considerations. This work consists of essential maintenance and groundworks required to enable the game to recommence when possible.

The health and safety requirements of any club activity must not be compromised at this time. If an activity cannot be undertaken safely due to a lack of suitably qualified personnel being available or social distancing being implemented, it should not take place.

**First and foremost, clubs must adhere to the Government's social distancing policy in order to protect the health and wellbeing of all individuals.**

**If you are not able to work whilst maintaining a two metre distance, you should consider whether the activity should continue.**

Other than the provisions for lavatory and hand washing outlined in the '[ECB guidelines for the use of outdoor cricket facilities in lockdown](#)', only key personnel should be accessing buildings and grounds, and only to carry out essential works.

Those key personnel should follow these guidelines:

### **General Principles:**

- Non-essential physical work that requires close contact between individuals should not be carried out.
- Work requiring skin to skin contact should not be carried out.
- Plan all other work to minimise contact between individuals.
- Single use PPE should be disposed of so that it cannot be reused.

### **First Aid and Emergency Services:**

- The provision of adequate first aid resources must remain on site in case it is required for those carrying out essential duties.
- Emergency plans including contact details should be kept up to date.
- Consideration must also be given to potential delays in emergency services response, due to the current pressure on resources.
- Consider preventing or rescheduling high-risk work.

### **People:**

- Minimise access to only essential staff/volunteers and 'key workers'. Social distancing must be applied and no public gatherings taking place (this includes staff and teams). Other than those toilet and hand washing facilities, stop all nonessential visitors including members/spectators.
- Wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser (at least 60% alcohol) on arrival, regularly whilst at the club and when leaving the building.
- Do not continue with tasks that require larger team efforts, such as pulling large flat sheet covers. Either use smaller covers or stop using them at all if it cannot be done safely.
- Only attend the building or grounds during day light hours to avoid any potential risks.
- Avoid the use of headphones and handsfree mobile calls in case of emergency alarms or shouts not being heard.
- Those who are carrying out tasks that require ear defenders must remain alert to their surroundings, emergency alarms and signals. People raising alarms must be alert to people wearing ear defenders and attract their attention as required.

### **Lone Working:**

- When working alone make a plan with a close family member or friend to act as an emergency point of contact (EPOC). Let them know:
  - where you will be
  - what you are planning to do
  - details of your car registration, make, model and colour (if applicable)
  - your expected return or check-in time
- Agree an emergency plan in the event you cannot check in and report that you have finished on site safely. Start with a phone call to each other but if contact cannot be made, then the EPOC will need to contact the emergency services with the information above.

- Make sure you do notify your EPOC when you are leaving site to avoid unnecessary emergency calls.
- Make sure that your mobile phone is fully charged and fully functioning (including that you have signal) so that you can keep in contact.

### **Buildings:**

- It is advised that clubs turn off water supplies at the mains if the building is left unattended for longer periods of time than it normally operates. Systems will need to be drained if you do take this action. A flush through of water pipes is recommended prior to water use whether or not this action is taken.
- It is advised that clubs turn off and unplug nonessential electrical equipment to reduce fire risk (keep fire and security alarms and detection systems active).
- Clear all areas of waste and combustible materials. Immediately clear up any spillages.
- Inspect all buildings, car parks and grounds regularly for any potential hazards. Record these inspections (ECB template available).
- Ensure sites remain secure and minimise the number of entrances and exits in use.
- Ensure rubbish bins are emptied and continue regular removal and disposal.
- Keep all areas of the buildings and outside areas clean particularly regular contact areas such as door handles (see 'Cleaning' below).
- Only carry out essential maintenance work.
- Do not open bar, food or hospitality facilities for business.

### **Equipment:**

- Ensure all equipment is stored away safely and securely after each use.
- Ensure that equipment is only used by those who are trained, competent and is only used according to the manufacturer's operating manual.
- Ensure that safe systems of work are in place for all high risk equipment (including mowers and rollers) and the users have read and understood the relevant risk assessments, undergone training and are deemed competent to use that equipment for that task.
- Ensure any kitchen/catering equipment is cleaned and out of use. Empty fridges and cupboards of any perishable foods.
- Avoid the use of any equipment which is overdue maintenance or recertification until inspections can take place.

### **Eating Arrangements:**

Although buildings should be kept closed, individuals who are accessing for the purpose of building/grounds maintenance should abide by the following:

- A dedicated eating area should be identified to reduce food waste and contamination. Hand sanitiser (at least 60% alcohol) should be available in this area.
- Ask individuals accessing the club to bring in their own crockery, cutlery, drinking bottles, cups etc
- Drinking water outlets should have enhanced cleaning measures of the tap mechanism.

- Any tables used should be cleaned between each use using disinfectant or disinfectant wipes (see 'Cleaning' below).
- Vending machines must have regular cleaning of contact points if still in use.

### **Cleaning:**

- Enhanced cleaning procedures should be in place across the site, particularly in communal areas and at touch points including:
  - Taps and washing facilities
  - Toilet flush and seats
  - Door handles and push plates
  - Handrails on staircases and corridors
  - Lift controls
  - Machinery and equipment controls
  - Food preparation and eating surfaces
  - Telephone equipment
  - Keyboards, photocopiers and other office equipment
- Rubbish collection and storage points should be increased and emptied regularly throughout and at the end of each day.
- Disinfectants and disinfectant wipes that meet EN14476 standard (tested against viricidal efficiency) are to be used for cleaning services and that they are used in line with the manufacturer's guidelines.

Disinfectants and disinfectant wipes are to be used following the 5 principles of cleaning:

1. Wipe in an 'S' shape pattern
2. Work from top to bottom
3. Wipe from clean to dirty
4. Ensure correct contact time
5. One wipe, one surface

### **Further information can be found here:**

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

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19>

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/news/coronavirus.htm>

<https://www.local.gov.uk/our-support/coronavirus-information-councils/covid-19-culture-tourism-leisure-and-sports>

<https://www.ecb.co.uk/news/1668576/ecb-guidelines-for-the-use-of-outdoor-cricket-facilities-in-lockdown>

<https://www.ecb.co.uk/news/ecb>

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/toolbox/workers/lone.htm>

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg73.htm>

<https://www.thegma.org.uk/covid-19-0>

<https://www.thegma.org.uk/guidance-interim-works-your-sports-turf>

<https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/coronavirus>

<https://sapca.org.uk/guide/maintaining-sports-facilities-during-lockdown/>