



Frequently Asked Questions

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GENERAL:

What are the top tips for clubs to consider re: COVID-19?

The key recommendations (based on Department of Health advice) is –

- For people who have any symptoms or have been in recent close contact with a COVID-19 case to stay away, get tested & isolate until receiving a negative result;
- To stay outdoors wherever possible – no more than 15 minutes indoors with others at training / matches;
- Maintain 1.5m distance at all times;
- Maintain strong COVID-19 hygiene practices.

What are the rules around vaccination status?

AFL Victoria strongly recommended that all eligible people get fully vaccinated asap.

N.B.: The below information is based on current information available on the Victorian State Government [CORONAVIRUS WEBSITE](#):

Unless an individual council, school, university, or other landowner has rules in place that exceed these requirements, the following rules will apply:

(a) Matches & training sessions.

People directly involved: Players, coaches, umpires, timekeepers, trainers and any other person directly required for running the match / training session e.g. canteen/bar attendants

Full vaccination status is **NOT** required for the duration of matches & training sessions. These people can access indoor spaces (**excluding social / hospitality spaces**) without showing proof of vaccine status

All other people 16 years and over (unless you have a valid exemption) – e.g. spectators, parents/guardians, club committee members not directly required for running the match

Full vaccination status **IS** only required to enter any indoor spaces such as social rooms – except for toilet or emergency access which shall be open for all

(b) Other football related activities – including after-match social functions, club meetings?

Full vaccination status **IS** only required to enter any indoor spaces such as social rooms – except for toilet or emergency access which shall be open for all.

Do we need a COVID-Safe Officer?

Yes. Each Club must nominate at least one COVID Safety Officer who can be the lead for ensuring that the club is seeking to provide a COVID-19 safe environment (e.g., visible signage in place, compliance with QR code check-ins are happening, compliance with training & match day requirements, ensuring the club is promoting its policies widely etc.). Clubs are encouraged to have multiple people take ownership of this role and share the responsibility (e.g. at least one per team).

Do we need to appoint a COVID Marshall &/or a COVID Check-in Marshall?

“Covid CHECK-IN Marshall” – Yes. It is simply the person/people who will ensure that people check-in via the QR codes at training, match day & events. Clubs will ensure that this is allocated to anyone appropriate and likely to arrive early – e.g., Coach, Captain, Team Manager, or Canteen rep etc. Clubs will need to ensure that all teams have someone who will ensure that people are checking-in each time.

Tip: Players and regular club attendees should save the home ground(s) as a favourite in their Services Vic app to make it even quicker to check-in at training / matches.

Does the club need to ‘store’ any personal details about people checking in?

No. Clubs don’t have to store any data about people checking-in. The State Government has access to the information directly via the Service Vic check-in system and will make contact with people who might be impacted about a positive case and will contact the club to outline requirements.

What are the current general restrictions in place for sport / exercise?

This link provides the most up-to-date information from the State Government in respect to current COVID-19 protocols for Sport including FAQs not covered here – [Sport, exercise and physical recreation services sector guidance | Coronavirus Victoria](#)

What do we do if someone who is a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 case has been at our club?

After hearing details, the following (as a minimum) should be actioned by the lead COVID-19 Officer (or authorised club representative):

- Notify the Department of Health on 1800 675 398 and Worksafe Victoria 132360. Ask the Department of Health Victoria / Worksafe for detailed instructions that can be passed on to the wider football network – including if any facilities will need to be closed (& for how long) – and follow the instructions immediately.
- Inform all key stakeholders – including the club network, local council, local school (if using a school facility), local League, opposition clubs that have either recently played against the player(s) in question or played at the ground and your Football league that a suspected (or confirmed) COVID-19 case has been connected to the club and provide any specific advice from the Department of Health to each organisation. This will include advice from the Department of Health for what people who may have attended any recent football events need to do.
- AFL Victoria may develop a media release to inform the public. If so, this should be shared widely via various traditional & social media means & be conscience of communicating with people who do not read English and therefore may not have read any promotion in English.
- The club may be instructed to conduct a “deep clean” of the facility by the Department of Health, Worksafe Victoria or the local council with the Department of Health / Worksafe Victoria able to assist with providing contact details of companies who can assist with this.
- The club should keep in regular phone contact with any people who are isolating to check on their health and isolation compliance.
- The club should keep all key stakeholders updated in relation to when the facility is safe to return to (based on Department of Health advice) and when training / matches can re-commence. Only return after approval from the Department of Health and your local council.
- The League will consider a range of options for current and future matches where one of more players need to isolate and/or the club facility is not available for use.

Where can our Club / League find an editable COVID-19 safe plan for endorsement, promotion and for showing our local council

Along with a range of other resources, the latest AFL Victoria COVIDSAFE plan can be found on the AFL Victoria website at this link [COVIDSAFE Plan Requirements | AFL Victoria](#)

Clubs / Leagues should read the information carefully, commit as an organisation to adhering to the requirements, edit & endorse the plan and promote it widely (including website, social media, email) to current players, members and also external stakeholders such as your local council / sponsors etc. This will help to promote the pro-active steps that your organisation is taking to be COVID-19 safe.

How do people attending the premises check in?

The Victorian State Government announced that all organisations need to use the standard QR code system through Services Victoria.

The State Government Coronavirus website linked below has a simple step by step guide where the club registers for a new QR code and after completing details about the organisation / locations, you can print out a poster containing the new QR code. Once complete, you don't need to worry about storing / deleting any data captured as it goes directly to the Department for Health.

Please visit [HTTPS://WWW.CORONAVIRUS.VIC.GOV.AU/REGISTER-TO-USE-VIC-GOV-QR-CODE-SERVICE](https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/register-to-use-vic-gov-qr-code-service) to register, complete the application process and print out your new posters containing your QR codes. These posters should be on display at your next football event / meeting and for all activities moving forward.

A paper version of check is still required in case patrons do not have a smart phone to check in with.

How does the cross-border restrictions apply with NSW / SA for border towns?

This information is updated regularly by the State Government – [click here for the latest information](#).

Players and officials shall continue to take direction from their local League which will take in account current requirements in Victoria as well as NSW or SA as the case may be.

What is used to sanitize the ball, hands, or equipment?

The ball shall be cleaned with “minimum 70%-alcohol (ethanol or isopropyl alcohol (IPA) based antibacterial wipe or spray” at least at each quarter and after all training sessions.

What type of cleaning needs to take place in change rooms and facilities before and after use?

Cleaning procedures may differ depending on the local government authority (e.g. Council), school or other management body that run the facilities and cleaning procedures. Clubs will still have a major responsibility in making sure facilities are clean and safe. On match day, cleaning can include:

- Taking all reasonable steps to ensure that frequently touched surfaces accessible to members of the public, including tables, bars, toilets and handrails, are cleaned regularly (including when visibly soiled) and post events or between groups by wiping the surface with a disinfectant that has anti-viral properties.
- Cleaning principles can be found via the [WorkSafe Australia](#) website which should help as a reference point to what cleaning guidelines are recommended.

Does our insurance under the National Risk Protection Program through Marsh still apply?

Yes. Participants will be covered under the Personal Accident policy and Clubs & Associations under the Public Liability and Club Management Liability policies that make up the National Club Risk Protection Program noting that there is no “infectious Diseases” (including COVID-19) exclusion on the policies. Cover under these policies remains under their current terms, conditions and exclusions. For more details [AFL National Risk Protection Program \(marsh.com\)](#)

Where can we find more information about COVID-19?

There are a number of great resources for Clubs and Associations. Below is a list of resources & websites which may assist the Association and Affiliated clubs to obtain more information and guidance to deliver quality practices:

AFL Victoria

<https://www.aflvic.com.au/covid-resources>

- Editable COVID-19 plan, COVID-19 resources, posters, useful links

Toyota AFL Club Help

<https://www.afl.com.au/clubhelp/covid-19>

- COVID-19 resources, posters, useful links

COVID-19 equipment, signage, posters etc.

<HTTPS://WWW.CORONAVIRUS.VIC.GOV.AU/SIGNS-POSTERS-AND-TEMPLATES>

Optional online e-training module for COVID-19 Safety Officers

- <HTTPS://WWW.COVID-19TRAINING.GOV.AU/LOGIN>

Safe Work Australia

- <https://covid19.swa.gov.au/collection/covid-19-resource-kit>
- <https://covid19.swa.gov.au/doc/signage-and-posters-covid-19>

PLUS

Reach out to your local council / facility manager to discuss facility access, cleaning, signage etc.

TRAINING PROTOCOLS:

What are the rules around vaccination status to attend training sessions?

AFL Victoria strongly recommended that all eligible people get fully vaccinated asap.

N.B.: The below information is based on current information available on the Victorian State Government [CORONAVIRUS WEBSITE](#):

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(a) Matches & training sessions.

People directly involved: Players, coaches, umpires, timekeepers, trainers and any other person directly required for running the match / training session e.g. canteen/bar attendants

Full vaccination status is **NOT** required for the duration of matches & training sessions. These people can access indoor spaces (**excluding social / hospitality spaces**) without showing proof of vaccine status

All other people 16 years and over (unless you have a valid exemption) – e.g. spectators, parents/guardians, club committee members not directly required for running the match

Full vaccination status **IS** only required to enter any indoor spaces such as social rooms – except for toilet or emergency access which shall be open for all

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Will change rooms / social rooms be accessible during training days?

Yes – subject to any restrictions imposed by the council, school or university. Until overall COVID-19 case numbers reduce to low levels, facility access should be minimised (except for toilet / emergency access). Players should ideally arrive ready for training. Any areas of the facility that may be touched (toilets, door handles etc) must be cleaned before and after use.

How many people can attend training sessions?

To help reduce the chances of spreading the COVID-19 virus, it is strongly recommended that only those who need to attend– e.g. Players and coaches. All participants are to always maintain a 1.5m distance from others within their group & from other groups. Parents / Guardians of children (&/or vulnerable adults) may attend if required, however must also check-in, maintain their distance etc.

It is important to remember all key COVID-19 protocols (COVID-19 Safety Plan adhered to, everyone checks-in, adequate signage & sanitizer available). If you are training in small groups, keep a record of the small training groups.

Will people need to check in for training?

Yes. Clubs are required by the Victorian State Government to utilise the Services Victoria QR code check-in system for everyone who is involved in training sessions. For any club who hasn't do so already, [please register](#), complete the application process and print out your posters containing your QR codes. These posters should be on display at training and all participants should scan upon arrival. Clubs who created QR code registration from last season (e.g. Microsoft Office) should be removed to avoid confusion.

If a player or official has symptoms they should immediately leave training and only return after receiving a negative COVID-19 test result.

Tip: People checking in should save the home venue as a favourite via the Services Vic App on their smartphone to save time each time they check-in.

Can a parent / guardian “check-in” for their son/daughter?

Yes. Ideally it is the player themselves – but if this is not possible, a parent can do this for a player with that player's permission and providing the information about the player. The Victorian QR code service allows for additional registrations once the QR code has been scanned which parents/guardians or coaches may choose to do on behalf of others.

Will participants need to wear masks at training?

Masks are only required indoors by anyone 12 years of age or older. Attendees should have their masks available.

MATCH DAY:

Can the NAB AFL Auskick program as well as junior and senior matches proceed in Victoria now?

Yes, these can all now proceed – subject to facility owner approval (e.g. council, school).

Do people need to be fully vaccinated to attend football matches this season?

AFL Victoria strongly recommended that all eligible people get fully vaccinated asap.
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Who needs to 'check-in' via the QR code?

All players, officials, volunteers (and spectators / parents who spend any time near the scorer's table, canteen or other people) should 'check in' via the QR code on arrival.

Tip: People checking in should save the home venue as a favourite via the Services Vic App on their smartphone to save time each time they check-in.

How will clubs monitor vaccination status for matches?

All attendees will need to check-in via the Services Vic QR code. Clubs need to ensure they monitor the QR code check-in.

- People directly involved in the match simply need to check-in via the QR code system in place – vaccination status does not apply
- All other people 16 years and over need to check-in AND show proof of their vaccination status when accessing indoor social and hospitality spaces. This can be shown to a person at the canteen/bar or other designated person

N.B.: A player, coach etc. will need to be fully vaccinated to attend any after-match / after-training social event (see separate FAQ on this).

Tip: People checking in should save the home venue as a favourite via the Services Vic App on their smartphone to save time each time they check-in.

How do we manage the situation around 'un-vaccinated' players being in rooms after matches and before social functions start?

People directly involved in the match (e.g., players, umpires) who are not fully vaccinated should be allowed adequate time before matches (e.g. up to 1 hour) and after-matches (say 30 minutes) in any indoor spaces such as change rooms. After this time, the venue is to be treated as an indoor space for socialising – not playing community sport – and therefore align to the wider rules around hospitality / cafes – e.g., full vaccination status is required to enter indoor spaces.

Are spectators allowed to attend football matches & do they have to be vaccinated?

Yes, spectators shall be in groups of 30 or less, maintain 1.5m distance from others and maintain reasonable distance from other groups (e.g. 10m).

Spectators do not need to be vaccinated to attend matches, however they will require a proof of vaccination status when entering any indoor spaces (such as social rooms).

What should the club do if someone refuses to check-in &/or refuses to show proof of their vaccination status when entering indoor areas?

If someone is aggressive or intimidating, clubs should seek to avoid unnecessary confrontation where possible. Some Do's & Don'ts as suggested by the Government include:

Do's

- Stay calm and listen to their concerns
- Have someone designated as the person best equipped to deal with complaints
- Remind the person that the club is simply following the State Government directions and they need to check-in and where required show proof of vaccination status
- Ask for help – including other volunteers, contact the council (or even the Police if the situation escalates)

Don't

Argue, raise your voice or put your safety at risk

How can a spectator / parent show proof of full vaccination status when entering an indoor space?

There are many ways for a spectator / parent to show their vaccination status, but the easiest way is by getting their [COVID-19 DIGITAL CERTIFICATE](#) and linked it to their Service Victoria app.

When they check-in using the QR code, this will automatically verify their vaccination status if they have linked their [COVID-19 DIGITAL CERTIFICATE](#).

Visit [HOW TO GET YOUR COVID-19 DIGITAL CERTIFICATE](#) and link it to the Service Victoria App.

A parent / spectator can also provide evidence of being fully vaccinated via:

- A COVID-19 digital certificate displayed through the Medicare App or equivalent smartphone wallet
- A printed version of your COVID-19 Digital Certificate or immunization history statement provided by your vaccination provider, medical practitioner or the Australian Immunization Register.

What proof is required for a medical exemption from a spectator / parent to enter an indoor space?

Written evidence provided by any of the following is required:

- general practice registrars on an approved 3GA training placement
- public health physicians
- infectious disease physicians
- clinical immunologists
- paediatrician
- GPs who are vocationally registered
- GP who is a fellow of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners
- GP who is a fellow of the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine
- medical practitioner who is a fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians

What happens to match results if one or more players need to isolate / quarantine as a result of COVID-19?

This is for each association to confirm their ruling.

Are change rooms & social areas accessible on match days?

YES – subject of course to council approval & density limits of 1 person per 2sqm. Any areas of the facility that may be touched (toilets, door handles etc.) need to have been cleaned before attendees arrive and cleaned again after use by each group. Change room access should be minimised – especially whilst COVID-19 case numbers are high – to help reduce the likelihood of spreading the virus from one person to another.

Remember that people not actively participating in the match (e.g., parents / spectators) will need to be fully vaccinated to enter indoor spaces (except for toilet or emergency access).

Are clubs able to operate a canteen or bar on match day?

Yes. So long as clubs are complying with their liquor licence arrangements, applicable density limits and ensure that people not actively participating in the match (e.g., parents / spectators) need to be fully vaccinated to access indoor spaces. People who aren't fully vaccinated can purchase food / drinks from any areas where they do not have to go indoors.

If required, detailed guidelines of the requirements for cafes, restaurants and food and drink facilities are available on the [Business Victoria](#) website.

Are we able to play matches on school ovals & promote the local club to the school?

The Department for Education & Training has given support to activities to proceed at school facilities in line with the current "[OPEN PREMISES DIRECTIONS](#)" (which allows Football to proceed in a COVID-19 safe manner). Ultimately this will be a school or university specific decision, but AFL Victoria is of the expectation that most schools will be available for full use during the season – so long as it complies with directions in place at the time and the club always maintains strong COVID-19 practices. This will include training & match day access to ovals, nets, toilets & change rooms as well as in-school promotional opportunities.

Clubs are reminded to check specifics with their local school / university for local arrangements.

Can we have communal afternoon teas/drinks that are shared by players/officials?

Officials having afternoon tea together is ok (as long it complies with any applicable room density limits & people maintain their 1.5m distance, keep masks on inside when not eating / drinking). Our strong suggestion however is to avoid share plates where people put their hands on the same plates of food & cordial jugs where several people push the same button on the container. Therefore, bring or buy your own food or consume things that aren't share plates (such as a plate of 1/4 sandwiches) & BYO water bottle. We also suggest minimizing time spent inside changerooms / social rooms as well.

This is a strong recommendation as opposed to a State Government or AFL Victoria rule as it helps to minimise the chances of the virus spreading in a similar way to sanitizing the ball at breaks in play, umpire not holding caps etc.

Does the scorebook or iPad need to be sanitized?

Yes. Any equipment used (iPad, scorebook, pens) shall be cleaned with an alcohol-based antibacterial wipe (with minimum 70% alcohol) before use and each time a new scorer is required.

Can players travel to matches together?

Yes. To help reduce the likelihood of transition, where possible:

- All passengers should wear a fitted face mask in the car unless you have a lawful exemption
- Increase ventilation in the vehicle by opening windows wherever possible. Avoid having air-conditioning on recirculate
- High touch surfaces in the vehicle should be cleaned and disinfected regularly.

Will anyone need to wear masks at matches?

Unless they have an exemption, those 12 years of age and older will only need to wear a mask when indoors.