



UPDATE

Guidance for clubs in advance of return to football activity

- Each club should decide when it's right for them to return based on their ability to comply with NI Executive guidance; please check any insurance you have in relation to your football activities to ensure it remains in place during the pandemic and if so, you are not breaking any of its terms
- Assign a COVID-19 Officer who will be responsible for having club oversight of adherence to the Irish FA and NI Executive guidance
- Risk assess training facilities to ensure that guidelines, for example social distancing, good hand hygiene can be adhered to
- Communicate processes and responsibilities to all coaches and club volunteers – ensure that tasks such as sanitising equipment are assigned
- Communicate processes to all players and parents/guardians to ensure familiarity with new requirements
- If you are responsible for your own training facility, display signage at the entrance and around the facility to promote good hand hygiene, social distancing
- Hand sanitising facilities to be made available for participants in advance of training
- Consider entry and exit procedures i.e. a one- way system with separate drop-off and pick up points may be beneficial if required
- For clubs with U18 teams, make a clear decision in relation to parents' presence at training consider social distancing guidelines and whether presence increases risk; however, it may be practical to permit this for younger children (providing guidelines can be met)
- For clubs with U18 teams, consider the ratio of coach-to-children; the Irish FA Safeguarding policy should be adhered to as a minimum however it may be practical to have a lower ratio for younger age groups to allow new processes to embed
- All equipment including balls, cones and goal posts to be sanitised before and after use; see below re cleaning advice
- Changing facilities must remain closed however access to toilet facilities can be provided with door handles and toilet flush mechanisms to be regularly sanitised and as a minimum before and after each session
- Cleaning should be carried out where reasonably practical with single use disposable cleaning equipment such as disposable wipes, or the cleaning material (for example the cloth or sponge) is either placed in a disinfectant solution effective against COVID-19, or it is

discarded and not reused; in all cases, the cleaning product used should be effective against Covid-19

- All kits should be taken home by players to be washed after training
- In relation to First Aid, all efforts should be made to maintain social distancing and allow player to self- treat; where this cannot be achieved please ensure that first aid kits are stocked with appropriate PPE to support with this including gloves and face masks
- Any additional facilities, for example, gyms, social clubs and cafes, should comply with the relevant government guidance and are not covered by the detail contained in the Irish FA guides
- COVID-19 guidance <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/coronavirus-covid-19-overview-and-advice>