



RETURN TO TRAINING & PLAYING PROTOCOLS

**Prepared for AFL Victoria Affiliated Community Football
Leagues & Clubs
as of November 4, 2021**



RETURN TO TRAINING & PLAYING PROTOCOLS

AFL VICTORIA RETURN TO TRAIN & PLAY ADVICE

Returning to training and playing in a safe, hygienic and controlled manner is paramount to the AFL. The safety and wellbeing of our participants is our number one priority.

In advance of any training or playing recommencing we encourage Leagues, Clubs, umpires, officials and volunteers to digest these protocols, go through an education period and formulate an education and implementation plan to return to training and playing safely.

We will continue to work with the Victorian State Government to ensure alignment with their advice. Our primary focus is preparing to return to training and playing in a safe environment in a well-prepared and educated manner.

AFL Victoria will continue to follow any direction from the Victorian State Government. This document relates specifically to senior and junior community football in Victoria.

If these protocols cannot be achieved, training and competitions should not proceed.

AFL Victoria strongly recommends downloading the COVIDSafe app.



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MATCHES, TRAINING AND PROGRAMS

Vaccination Requirement	In line with Victorian Government requirements if venues are used for community sport (organised competitive sports with membership), patrons participating or facilitating community sport (e.g., players, coaches, volunteers) do not need to be vaccinated to access the facility*.
Density Limits	Indoors at one person per 4 sqm Outdoors at one person per 2 sqm up to 500 people
Spectators	Spectators can attend in line with outdoor public gathering limits and the venue's indoor density limits. Spectators should maintain at least 1.5 metres from others.
QR Code Check-In Requirements	A COVID Check-in Marshal is required at each entrance to ensure everyone check-in via the Service Vic app. Check-in signs must be displayed through the venue including at all entrances to the ground, pavilions and change rooms.
Shared Equipment	Shared equipment must be cleaned between users.
Face Masks	Face masks are mandatory indoors for people aged 12 and over unless an exception applies. It is recommended you wear a mask outdoors if you cannot maintain physical distancing.

****Please note – some local government authorities or facility owners may require participants and people who attend community sport to be vaccinated as a condition of entry to a venue. If you are unsure, please check with your local council or facility manager.***



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FACILITY ACCESS (For example, Change Rooms, Social Rooms and Toilets)

Vaccination Requirement	In line with Victorian Government requirements if venues are used for community sport (organised competitive sports with membership), patrons participating or facilitating community sport (e.g. players, coaches, volunteers) do not need to be vaccinated to access the facility*. However, to access facilities for a purposes other than community sport where all attendees are required to be fully vaccinated - such as gym, hospitality or entertainment - attendees must be fully vaccinated , be under 16 or have a valid medical exemption.
Density Limits	Indoors at one person per 4 sqm Outdoors at one person per 2 sqm up to 500 people
Change Rooms	Change rooms are open at the density quotient of one person per 4sqm
Canteens	Canteens are open
Social Rooms	Social rooms can be used at the density quotient of one person per 4sqm. Attendees must be fully vaccinated , be under 16 or have a valid medical exemption to enter a social room.
QR Code Check-in Requirements	A COVID Check-in Marshal is required at each entrance to ensure everyone checks-in via the Service Vic app. Check-in signs must be displayed through the venue including at all entrances to the grounds, pavilions and change rooms.
Face Masks	Face masks are mandatory indoors for people aged 12 and over unless an exception applies. It is recommended you wear a mask outdoors if you cannot maintain physical distancing.

***Please note – some local government authorities or facility owners may require participants and people who attend community sport to be vaccinated as a condition of entry to a venue. If you are unsure please check with your local council or facility manager.**



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GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Hygiene

- Alcohol-based hand sanitisers must be available for all team training sessions and on the interchange bench, with players encouraged to use prior, during and following training.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitiser.
- Do not share drink bottles, helmets or equipment that touches your face or head.
- Disinfect mouth guards after each session and ensure they are appropriately stored.
- Cover your mouth to cough or sneeze (using your elbow).
- Spitting and clearing of nasal/respiratory secretions is not permitted.
- Thoroughly clean and disinfect facilities before use (prior to player arrival).
- Clubs must ensure that frequently touched surfaces and objects are cleaned regularly when in use (e.g., tables, countertops, light switches, doorknobs, and cabinet handles) using a regular household detergent and water. In some instances, change rooms may need to be cleaned more regularly and clubs should be monitoring or adjusting cleaning arrangements as required.
- Hygiene posters displayed (templates available on Toyota AFL Club Help website).

Illness

- If you, or people you have been in contact with are sick, do not attend training or games and advise your football coach who is responsible for informing the COVID Safety Officer. Generally, you should be tested for COVID-19 if you develop fever or respiratory symptoms.
- Stay home and seek medical treatment when you are sick.
- Do not attend training or games if unwell.
- People who present to training or games with symptoms should be isolated, sent home immediately and recommended to seek medical assistance
- Any person wishing to attend training or games that has underlying health conditions or is considered a vulnerable person should consult with a healthcare professional prior to attending.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

Cleaning

- Take 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 Australian Government Department of Health website which should help as a reference point what cleaning guidelines are recommended.

COVID Check in Marshal

- COVID Check-in Marshal means an employee, or employees or volunteers at a facility who monitors compliance with the record keeping requirement at all entrances to the facility open to members of the public by checking whether patrons have provided their details prior to entry.



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POSITIVE COVID-19 CASES

- Localised outbreaks may require clubs to restrict activity and clubs must be ready to respond accordingly. The detection of a positive COVID-19 case in a club will result in a standard public health response, which may include quarantine of a whole team or large group, and close contacts, for the required period.
- Facilities may be closed on the instruction of the local Public Health Authority or the Chief Health Officer. Re-opening of the training facility should only occur after close consultation with the local Public Health Authority.
- Where there is a positive COVID-19 case, the player or official must notify their Club immediately. The Club must notify their League who will notify AFL Victoria and the Public Health Authority. The Club and League must then follow the advice of the Public Health Authority or Chief Health Officer who will determine requirement for quarantining individuals, groups or teams (and their close contacts) and whether the training facility can be used.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information can be found at the Victoria state Government link below.

<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/sport-and-exercise>