

COVID-19 Match Day Protocol (Behind Closed Doors) Season 2020/21 Guidance Note

Update 1

30 September 2020

Following the approval of the Match Day Protocol (Behind Closed Doors) Season 2020/21 ('**Protocol**') and the Match Day Operations Plan Season 2020/21 ('**Operations Plan**') on 3 September 2020, the Premier League has received requests for clarification on certain issues detailed in the Protocol and Operations Plan. Please find below guidance for Clubs to address these requests.

1. Medical Questionnaire

In accordance with paragraph 8 (ii) of the Protocol, each Home Club must ensure that all Match Day Personnel complete their COVID-19 Medical Questionnaire before entering the Stadium. The Medical Questionnaire includes a requirement to indicate whether the individual has travelled outside of the UK in the preceding 14 days, in which case they must have complied with any applicable Government guidance in force at the relevant time, including in relation to any mandatory quarantine.

The Government's current guidance regarding overseas travel requires any individual returning from a non-Air Corridor Country to quarantine for 14 days. However, Match Officials, Hawk-Eye staff and Match Managers (who operate in the Red Zone) currently receive an exemption from quarantining, which is approved by the Government, and provided by The FA, where they have returned to the UK from overseas having carried out duties at matches in UEFA competitions. This exemption is provided on the basis that whilst working for UEFA they were subject to the UEFA COVID-19 Match Day Protocols, which included undertaking a COVID-19 PCR Antigen test and returning a negative result.

In addition, there are broadcasting and media staff (who operate in the Amber Zone) who are also provided with quarantine exemptions from the Government in respect of the work they also undertake overseas at UEFA matches.

In light of the above, we advise that any mandatory screening questions relating to travelling outside of the UK are amended to ensure that the above individuals do not fail the screening process. For example, if the individual has responded 'yes' to having travelled outside of the UK in the previous 14 days, then you may wish to use a secondary question to capture confirmation they have received the required exemption to attend the match.

Please can you kindly update your COVID-19 Medical Questionnaires to ensure these individuals are not prevented from accessing the Stadium on a Match Day.

2. Directors, Senior Executives and Guests

Subject to the conditions set out below, the maximum number of directors, senior executives or guests permitted to attend a League Match in the boardroom or other guest areas in the Amber Zone has been changed to:

- Up to a maximum of **16** for the Home Club
- Up to a maximum of 10 for the Away Club

In total a maximum of 26 directors, senior executives or guests.

This increase in the number of directors, senior executives and guests that the Home Club is permitted to invite is conditional on the Home Club undertaking a risk assessment of the Amber Zone areas that they will access and updating its COVID-19 Stadium Operations Policy accordingly to ensure:

- Social distancing and appropriate hygiene measures are maintained in the relevant areas
- No more than six people are seated at the same table at any one time
- Consideration is given to using more than one room to meet the above requirements
- All those attending the League Match must wear a face covering whilst in the Stadium

3. Face Coverings

As a reminder, in accordance with paragraph 12 (v) (b) of the Protocol, all Relevant Persons, save for Players and Staff who will be present on the Club's trainers' bench during the League Match (in accordance with Rule K.28), must wear a face covering whilst in the Stadium. For the avoidance of doubt this includes those additional Players and Staff who are seated in the Stadium or in the extended dugout, but who are not listed on the Club's trainers' bench.

Further, Players and Staff travelling to the Stadium on the team coach should also wear face coverings. Such face coverings should only be removed once the Players and Staff have entered the Stadium.

4. Players swapping shirts

Players should not swap shirts whilst leaving the pitch during the League, at half-time or at the end of the match. If a Player wishes to swap his shirt with another Player, then this should be done after the Player has returned to his changing room. The shirt should be placed in a sealed bag before being handed over or swapped. Any person handling a Player's shirt or kit (other than the Player himself) should be wearing gloves.