



## COVID-19 Guidelines from 08 March 2021

### 28/02/2021 Update:

The primary role of the NFAS Committee is to be concerned with the safety of members at all times and we all have a duty of care and responsibility for keeping each other safe. These guidelines are written in conjunction with government guidelines published 22 February 2021, the full guidelines can be found by following this link:

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-response-spring-2021](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-response-spring-2021)

Please remember that you may have had COVID, or you may have had the vaccine, or you may feel well, however you may still be asymptomatic – a carrier of the virus.

All clubs and members should comply with all government guidelines, if this changes at short notice then government guidelines take precedence. This advice covers England. Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland may have different rules that should be adhered to.

This section of the government guidelines above directly relates to our sport. Please feel free to follow up on the footnote and fuller documentation in the above link.

*'Though the airborne risk of COVID-19 transmission is much lower outdoors than inside, the risk of infection via larger droplets remains high if people engage in prolonged, face-to-face close contact with others. [footnote 56] Therefore, maintaining 2m distancing outdoors is still advisable. Outdoor surfaces may also still become contaminated with the virus, so it is also important to be mindful of what shared objects, e.g. playground surfaces and gate handles, are touched, and to maintain regular hand washing.'*

***The government advises that these dates may change, depending on a four test assessment available in the link above, therefore please be aware that these dates may be put back:***

### **Step 1 – 08 March**

The message is still to stay at home. Outdoor sports and leisure facilities are still to remain **closed**. One or two people may attend clubs together in order to check grounds ahead of returning to active shooting. Risk assessments must be updated prior to any remedial work undertaken setting out procedures to minimise risk.

### **Step 1 – no earlier than 29 March** – some further limited changes to Step 1

Here are some key phrases from the above link to the government guidelines:

*'People will be able to meet outside in groups up to a maximum of 6 people, or with one other household, though people from different households will still need to socially distance from each other'.*

***'It will remain critical – with most people still unprotected by vaccines – that people continue to follow the guidance, use common sense and socially distance from other households'.***

***The home of unmarked field archery in the UK***



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*'Formally organised outdoor sports – for adults and under 18 – can also restart and will not be subject to the gatherings limit, but should be compliant with guidance by national governing bodies.'*

Clubs are able to open for organised sport – a system must be in place to ensure that clubs are organised in allowing people to shoot. Risk assessments must be undertaken.

**At this time outdoor shoots are classed as 'events' and therefore not included in this stage, please see Step 2.**

- Anyone that has been in contact with someone who has, or is suspected as having, Covid-19 must not attend the club or woods. Do not attend clubs or woods if you have symptoms such as a new and persistent cough, have a temperature, or lost the senses of taste and/or smell.
- Clubs must complete risk assessments following government or local guidelines in force at the current time. Risk assessments should consider, but not be limited to, the amount of people allowed in groups observing strict social distancing measures, how to limit groups, the number of gates handled to access the property, if ropes have to be used for safe conduct on the course, and the state of targets and if arrows can be pulled safely with minimal hand use. Blank risk assessment forms and examples on how to complete can be found under the Club Pack on the NFAS website - [Downloads](#)
- Be aware of distance at all times. Approach the target one at a time, pull your own arrows, then move away to allow others to pull their arrows. Try not to touch the target with your hands. Be aware when searching for arrows.

### **Step 2 – no earlier than 12 April**

Event pilots begin in the form of open shoots, and outdoor hospitality (catering) can resume. We suggest holding smaller events to begin with in conjunction with the recommendations below. According to the government guidelines 'outdoor service' should be table service to minimise close contact during queuing – please consider this during your open shoot, or how to manage socially distanced queueing.

### **Step 3 – no earlier than 17 May**

Indoor adult sport can continue – clubhouses and indoor practice can resume as long as it's organised.

### **Step 4 – no earlier than 21 June**

No social restrictions and with any luck we'll be planning the Championship later in the year.

### **Recommendations**

The NFAS recommend that all shoots are pre-book and prepay and COVID-19 risk assessments should be completed.



## COVID-19 Guidelines from 08 March 2021

Shoots should consider, but not be limited to:

- Minimise travel wherever possible, and do not stay away from home overnight at this stage
- Clubs must ensure the landowners agree with shoots being held during the pandemic
- Names and addresses should be taken and kept for 21 days of all participants to help with track and trace, should it become necessary
- When setting out, clubs that have targets requiring 2 or more people to move and place should consider not doing so and adapting the course, or are from the same household
- Avoid shots and routes that include ropes, gates and styles unless they can be frequently cleaned
- Arranging staggered arrival times/rolling start
- Small groups of 3-4 depending on the course layout to allow social distancing
- Giving archers blank score cards to be filled in at peg to avoid exchanging cards
- How to manage early arrivals to avoid congregation
- Practice butts should be marshalled however if social distancing cannot be observed practice butts should be closed
- Pre event announcements should be communicated before arrival of archers, or factored into timescales if individually briefed on the day
- Encouraging archers to bring only the equipment they need and to keep in their cars and not in general admin areas
- Keeping numbers low and allowing space between groups
- Ensure shots allow archers to pull their own arrows and standing back safely without encroaching on other shots
- Ensuring the course is well marshalled to facilitate the flow of group and that marshals are able to socially distance
- Considering possible pinch points and adapting the course, e.g. shortening long shots, to ensure hold ups, and therefore bunching of groups, are minimised
- Considering how slow groups can be managed to stop groups bunching
- Once cards are handed in archers should leave and not congregate to chat at the end of the day in the admin or car park areas
- Toilets should be thoroughly cleaned before each event and uses of which should be minimised. Hand washing facilities should be provided with running water, soap and disposable hand towels in addition to hand sanitiser.
- Hand sanitiser should be available at admin points and strategic points throughout the course where possible
- No medal ceremonies – competitors can be notified by phone, email or via website announcements if they have won and medals sent by post, if applicable.

If you are attending a shoot:

- Do not arrive before your allotted time
- Adhere to instructions given by marshals
- Observe social distancing at all times, do not be afraid to ask others to do the same
- Wear face masks if social distancing of 2 metres is not an option



## COVID-19 Guidelines from 08 March 2021

- Be prepared for processes to be different, ask if unsure
- Be prepared for practice butts to be closed
- Keep your lunch/drinks and equipment away from areas where others may congregate
- Give others space to pull their own arrows, try not to touch the target with your hands
- Take your own, and use, hand sanitiser before and after touching targets and other people's arrows if this is unavoidable
- Take others into consideration when searching for arrows, it's great to help others look, but be aware of social distancing
- Be aware of possible hold ups on courses – give the group in front plenty of room and consider not moving from your completed target until the course is clear to the next peg
- If you are a slow archer, consider ways you can reduce the time taken to ensure other groups are not held up
- Please abide by the rules that clubs have put in place for your safety, if you do not follow the rules you may be asked to leave the event. Any abuse of marshals or other members will not be tolerated and dealt with swiftly.

Blank risk assessment forms and examples on how to complete can be found under the Club Pack on the NFAS website. Link here: [Downloads](#)

Unsurprisingly, government advice can be conflicting and confusing. If you have a query, please do not hesitate to contact [general.secretary@nfas.net](mailto:general.secretary@nfas.net).

Finally, the Committee would like to thank all our members that work in the NHS and other key areas, and those that work tirelessly to keep us all safe. Your commitment is very much appreciated.

**NFAS Committee**