



RETURN TO TRAINING & PLAYING PROTOCOLS

**Prepared for AFL Victoria Affiliated Community Football
Leagues & Clubs**

AS OF MARCH 28, 2022



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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 youth 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*.
Spectators	Spectators can attend Spectators should maintain at least 1.5 metres from others.
QR Code Check-In Requirements	When social rooms are being used 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 at the entrances to the social rooms.
Shared Equipment	Shared equipment must be cleaned between users.
Face Masks	Face masks must be worn by hospitality workers when working indoors in an area accessible to the public (for example, customer service staff or staff cleaning the front area of a cafe). Face masks are not required when staff are outdoors or in indoor areas not accessible by the public such as kitchens, or staff only areas. It is recommended you wear a mask if you cannot maintain physical distancing.

****Please note – some local government authorities, schools, universities 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	<p>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*.</p> <p>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 18 or have a valid medical exemption.</p>
Change Rooms	Change rooms are open
Canteens	Canteens are open
Social Rooms	Attendees must be fully vaccinated , be under 18 or have a valid medical exemption to enter a social room.
QR Code Check-in Requirements	When social rooms are being used 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 at the entrances to the social rooms.
Face Masks	<p>Face masks must be worn by hospitality workers when working indoors in an area accessible to the public (for example, customer service staff or staff cleaning the front area of a cafe).</p> <p>Face masks are not required when staff are outdoors or in indoor areas not accessible by the public such as kitchens, or staff only areas.</p> <p>It is recommended you wear a mask if you cannot maintain physical distancing.</p>

****Please note – some local government authorities, schools, universities 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.***

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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POSTIVE COVID-19 CASES

- Where there is a positive COVID-19 case, the player or official should use their best endeavors to notify their Club contact as soon as possible. The Club should use their best endeavors to notify their League who can notify AFL Victoria should they require too. Full details can be found at: <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/checklist>

FURTHER INFORMATION

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

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