



**ENGLAND
HOCKEY**

COVID Guidance to Officials **“Living with COVID”**

Further to recent announcements we are now in the government’s Living with COVID phase of their response to the coronavirus pandemic. The full guidance from England Hockey, on this topic, is available [here](#).

We recognise that, across the EHO Membership there will be different attitudes and perceptions of the risks over the coming weeks and months. The England Hockey guidance issued to clubs and participants requests that the views of others are considered when participating. For EHO members that do not feel safe you may wish to request that teams respect your wishes when you officiate a match.

For those of you that do wish to ask for this here are some suggestions from previous stages of the “return to play” guidance that could, on request, be applied now:

- Request to maintain a social distance if you need to speak to captains, coaches or players during the game. e.g. The coin toss may be conducted at a social distance of 2m or more.
- Post-match, ensure that you are putting yourself in situations where you have sufficient distance and space available. Those who feel at risk may not wish to socialise indoors for example.
- Instead of shaking hands, continue with fist-bumps or other ways of greeting. Individuals or request to be given space.
- Technical Officials can ask to maintain sufficient space between yourselves and the teams / managers / players during the game.

We would recommend contacting teams in advance of matchdays or as a minimum speaking to captains / team coaches prior to matches if you wish your preferences to be taken into account. Once again, we would like to reassure you that the evidence clearly states that relative risks of taking part in outdoor sport are very low.

Should you have any queries or concerns, please feel free to contact your EHO Branch or umpiring@englandhockey.co.uk