

IMPORTANT INFORMATION – PLEASE READ

This COVID-19 briefing document applies to the first round of the Elite National Touch Series events taking place at Banbury RFC on Saturday 26th June 2021 and has been produced in addition to the main Event Briefing Pack. It has been produced following the recent government decision to continue with the current COVID-19 restrictions until 19th July 2021.

The policy applies to ALL attendees – Players, Coaches, Referees, Medical and Event Staff, other Volunteers, Spectators and anyone else attending.

ALL attendees must adhere to the ETA COVID-19 Code of Conduct:

www.EnglandTouch.org.uk/media/1866/England-Touch-Return-to-Play-COVID-19-Code-of-Conduct.pdf

All attendees must complete the declaration of attendance form before arrival, but no greater than 24 hours before the event: <https://forms.gle/zHz1wJNQaLYExaYS9>

We are requesting attendees take a lateral flow test prior to arrival. Further advice on ordering Rapid Tests can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

All attendees should remember to bring:

- Facemask
- Hand sanitiser
- Your own equipment – water bottle, whistle, towels

Please read this whole document thoroughly and carefully and ensure ALL persons attending are made aware of its contents.

DOCUMENT CONTENTS

1. Introduction
2. Key contact information
3. How COVID-19 is spread
4. Symptoms
5. Who can attend the first round of the ENTS or DNTS?
6. Test, Track & Trace
7. Rapid Flow Tests
8. Tournament procedures
9. Venue requirements
10. Checklist
11. Useful links

1. INTRODUCTION

Everyone is excited about returning to competitive club touch with the first Elite National Touch Series event taking place on Saturday 26th June 2021. However, COVID-19 has not gone away and with the growing prevalence of variants of the disease and rising case numbers across the UK, it is imperative that we take every precaution we can to minimise the risk of transmission in and around the game of Touch and ensure our Return to Play can continue.

By all attendees adhering to the actions detailed in this briefing note and ensuring these are implemented prior to, during and post attendance, we will significantly reduce the risk of Covid-19 transmission, ensuring all attendees can feel safe and that our activities remain permitted by the relevant authorities.

The following regulations apply to all attendees including players, coaches, officials, staff, volunteers and supporters. Prior COVID-19 infection, vaccination, or recent negative testing does NOT exempt ANYONE from the rules.

ALL attendees must adhere to the ETA COVID-19 Code of Conduct:

www.EnglandTouch.org.uk/media/1866/England-Touch-Return-to-Play-COVID-19-Code-of-Conduct.pdf. Not following these regulations risks passing a dangerous virus to your teammates and others, as well as putting further touch activity at risk of postponement or cancellation.

2. KEY CONTACT INFORMATION

COVID-19 Tournament Officer (Saturday only):

Ben Blackburn, 07421 777427

ENTS Event Manager (Saturday only):

Jack Harris, 07966 460293, university@EnglandTouch.org.uk

England Touch COVID-19 lead (pre-event):

Chris Simon, 07973 807339, returntoplay@EnglandTouch.org.uk

3. HOW COVID-19 IS SPREAD

COVID-19 spreads from person to person through small droplets, aerosols and through direct contact. Surfaces and belongings can also be contaminated with COVID-19 when people with the infection cough or sneeze or touch them. The risk of spread is greatest when people are close to each other, especially in poorly ventilated indoor spaces and when people spend a lot of time together in the same room.

Social distancing, washing your hands and good respiratory hygiene (using and disposing of tissues), cleaning surfaces, and keeping indoor spaces well ventilated are the most important ways to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

People who have COVID -19 can infect others up to 2 days before symptoms start, and for up to 10 days after. They can pass the infection to others, even if they have mild symptoms or no symptoms at all, which is why they must stay at home.

People who live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 are at higher risk of developing COVID - 19 in the next 14 days. They could spread the disease to others even when feeling well, which is why they must stay at home.

For further information on how to stop the spread of COVID-19, please visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-to-stop-the-spread-of-coronavirus-covid-19/how-to-stop-the-spread-of-coronavirus-covid-19#:~:text=The%20main%20way%20of%20spreading,in%20by%20another%20person.>

4. SYMPTOMS

The main symptoms of Coronavirus (COVID-19) are:

- A high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature).
- A new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you have a cough, it may be worse than usual).
- A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you have noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

Most people with Coronavirus have at least one of these symptoms.

The Coronavirus symptoms are similar to other illnesses that are much more common, such as a cold and the flu.

Among those who become infected, some will exhibit no symptoms (asymptomatic). Of those who do develop an illness, the majority will have a mild to moderate illness similar to seasonal flu. A minority will develop complications severe enough to require hospital care, and in a small number of these the illness may be severe enough to lead to death.

5. WHO CAN ATTEND THE FIRST ROUND OF THE ENTS AND DNTS?

Anyone can attend unless:

- They have returned a positive COVID-19 test.
- They currently (or in the last 14 days) have had any symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, continuous dry cough, loss of taste/smell).
- They have been exposed (as per NHS track-and-trace guidance) to anyone confirmed or suspected to have COVID-19 within the last 14 days.
- They have returned from another country requiring a quarantine and are still in the advised quarantine period for that country.
- They have been advised to shield by the NHS.
- Any other government advice that might ask them not to come into contact with others.

If you, or one of your players, referees, coaches, or other contacts falls into one of the above categories, they must not attend the first round of the ENTS or DNTS tournaments.

If you are in any doubt, please contact one of the team shown in section 2 of this briefing document.

6. TEST, TRACK AND TRACE

The ETA will be conducting a Test and Trace protocol for both the ENTS and DNTS events. ALL attendees must complete the self-declaration form confirming that they are able to attend as shown in section 5 above.

Team sheets and spot checks on the day will be conducted and anyone found to have not completed the relevant self-declaration may be asked to leave.

The following form will be made accessible for all attendees approximately 24 hours prior to the tournament. Please ensure that everyone attending completes the form prior to arrival on site. The form includes a section to input your lateral flow test results (see section below).

Self-declaration form: <https://forms.gle/zHz1wJNQaLYExaYS9>

If, following the tournament a positive COVID-19 test is reported to the ETA and that the symptoms were present within 48 hours of attending the event, then the ETA will contact others attending the event to make them aware.

Whilst self-isolation for others is only a requirement when contacted by the NHS, the following link does provide further details of when to self-isolate:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/>

PLEASE NOTE: During the tournament, if you use the NHS app and are leaving your phone in your bag or by the side of the pitch, please ensure it is not in close proximity to others. If there is an incident of COVID-19 reported it may mean you are classified as a close contact due to the location of your phone as opposed to being a close contact from any touch activity.

7. RAPID FLOW TESTS

Around 1 in 3 people with COVID-19 do not have symptoms. Rapid lateral flow tests help to find cases in people who may have no symptoms but are still infectious and can give the virus to others. Anyone who does not have symptoms can now get regular rapid lateral flow tests to check for COVID-19.

In light of the recent and exponential increase in cases, particularly in younger people, we have discussed whether taking rapid flow tests should be made compulsory for all attendees. However, as we expect this would be difficult to fully implement and that it is late in the day, we have taken the decision not to impose compulsory tests, but instead to **strongly recommend** it for **ALL attendees**. We very much encourage teams and clubs to ask **ALL players and referees** to take tests prior to travel. We appreciate your support and understanding in implementing this policy and in recording results through the self-declaration form.

Further advice on ordering Rapid Tests can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

8. TOURNAMENT PROCEDURES

Prior to arrival

- All attendees must complete the self-declaration form confirming that they permitted to attend the event (<https://forms.gle/zHz1wJNQaLYExaYS9>). This must be completed no earlier than 24 hours prior to attending.
- All attendees are encouraged to undertake a Lateral Flow Test (further information outlined above) and included in the self-declaration form.
- Attendees should avoid public transport where possible, or use face masks if travelling this way. Please also note that the rule of six or two households applies when using public transport.
- Attendees who are car sharing with others not from their own household (or bubble) should also ensure the rule of six, or two households. They should also:
 - Share the car with the same people each time if possible
 - Minimise the group size travelling
 - Open windows for ventilation
 - Travel side by side wherever possible
 - Face away from one other
 - Clean the car between journeys
 - Where face masks

For further guidance on safe travel please visit the government website - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers#public-transport>

If anyone on the way to, or on arrival to the event shows symptoms of COVID-19 this should be reported to the COVID-19 Officer by telephone. The individual should not take part in any activity and make their way home as soon as possible. They should avoid travel by public transport if possible.

At the event

- **Hand Sanitisation** – all attendees are requested to sanitise their hands on arrival and ensure regular sanitisation throughout the day, but particularly prior to and after matches and on visiting any indoor facilities at the venue. Whilst sanitiser will be available for general use, it is recommended that all attendees bring their own.
- **Equipment Sanitisation** – the event organisers and referees will ensure match balls are sanitised regularly during the day and especially prior to, at half time and after matches. Other attendees are reminded to please ensure sanitisation of their own club balls, or other equipment at regular intervals.
- **Social Distancing** – it is imperative that all attendees maintain social distancing from others (ideally 2m, but at least 1m+) at all times when not on the field. This includes in the sub-box,

prior to and after matches, when greeting or socialising with others, when going indoors for any reason and any other activity.

- **Wearing of face-masks** – these are required in all indoor areas, unless when sat down consuming food or drink. Please ensure all attendees have a face mask when attending the events.
- **Use of indoor areas and gazebos / tents** – we ask that all attendees remain outside as much as possible. The use of gazebos or tents is permitted, but we ask that you ensure these are kept well ventilated at all times and that good social distancing is maintained when inside. Please minimise time spent in any enclosed space with others and remember the rule of six applies when in any indoor setting.
- **Behaviour in and around the game** – a reminder of the key things we do not want to see please:
 - No team huddles or hands-in – keep a distance;
 - No high fives or handshakes – elbow bumps or virtual high fives should suffice;
 - No sharing of water bottles – ensure you all bring your own;
 - No sharing of kit of any kind;
 - No sharing of whistles for referees or player-referees;
 - No spitting or disposal of other bodily fluids.
- **Physio and Medical support** – a physiotherapist or sport therapist will be in attendance for these events. This is for first aid and immediate management of injuries on the day of the tournament. We ask that you wear a mask when arriving at the medical tent and remain outside until you are called in to see a member of the team.
- **Physio and Medical tent** – the same guidance applies for the physio and medical tent as it does to other gazebos. This will be kept well ventilated at all times and good social distancing must be maintained when inside. Please minimise time spent in any enclosed space with others.
- **Referee tent** – the same guidance applies for the referee tent as it does to other gazebos. This will be kept well ventilated at all times and good social distancing must be maintained when inside. Please minimise time spent in any enclosed space with others.
- **Event Control** – the same guidance applies for the Event Control tent as it does to other gazebos. This will be kept well ventilated at all times and good social distancing must be maintained when inside. Please minimise time spent in any enclosed space with others.

If during the event anyone shows symptoms of COVID-19 this should be reported to the COVID-19 Officer by telephone. The individual should not take part in any further activity and make their way home as soon as possible. They should avoid travel by public transport if possible.

Post tournament and travel home

- All attendees should ensure they sanitise their hands prior to departure.
- All equipment will be sanitised prior to departure.
- Social distancing guidelines must be maintained during the tournament presentations and around the site as people depart.

- Attendees should avoid public transport where possible, or use face masks if travelling this way. Please also note that the rule of six or two households applies when using public transport.
- Attendees who are car sharing with others not from their own household (or bubble) should also ensure the rule of six, or two households. They should also:
 - Share the car with the same people each time if possible
 - Minimise the group size travelling
 - Open windows for ventilation
 - Travel side by side wherever possible
 - Face away from one other
 - Clean the car between journeys
 - Where face masks

For further guidance on safe travel please visit the government website - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers#public-transport>

9. VENUE REQUIREMENTS

The venue will be operating their own Test and Trace for indoor areas. They will be operating an outside hatch for sales of food and drink and although this will be outside, customers are requested to wear masks whilst queueing for service.

Only one person at a time is allowed in the Clubhouse toilets and masks will be required.

10. CHECKLIST

A reminder that this policy applies to ALL attendees – Players, Coaches, Referees, Medical and Event Staff, other Volunteers, Spectators and anyone else attending.

Please read it thoroughly and carefully and ensure ALL persons attending are made aware of its contents and have completed the declaration of attendance form.

Please remember to bring:

- Facemask
- Hand sanitiser
- Your own equipment – water bottle, whistle, towels

Please ensure all attendees complete the self-declaration form no more than 24 hours before arrival - <https://forms.gle/zHz1wJNQaLYExaYS9>.

11. USEFUL LINKS

ETA COVID-19 Code of Conduct:

www.Englandtouch.org.uk/media/1866/England-touch-return-to-play-covid-19-code-of-conduct.pdf

For further information on how to stop the spread of COVID-19, please visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-to-stop-the-spread-of-coronavirus-covid-19/how-to-stop-the-spread-of-coronavirus-covid-19#:~:text=The%20main%20way%20of%20spreading,in%20by%20another%20person>

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Further advice on ordering Rapid Tests can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

Further details of the ETA's Return to Play guidance can be found here:

<https://www.EnglandTouch.org.uk/play/coronavirus/>

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