FOOTBALL
QUEENSLAND

RETURN TO PLAY GUIDELINES

UPDATED FEBRUARY 11, 2021

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COVIDSafe APP

To aid the fight against COVID-19, Football Queensland supports the COVIDSafe app and encourages the football community to get behind this initiative.

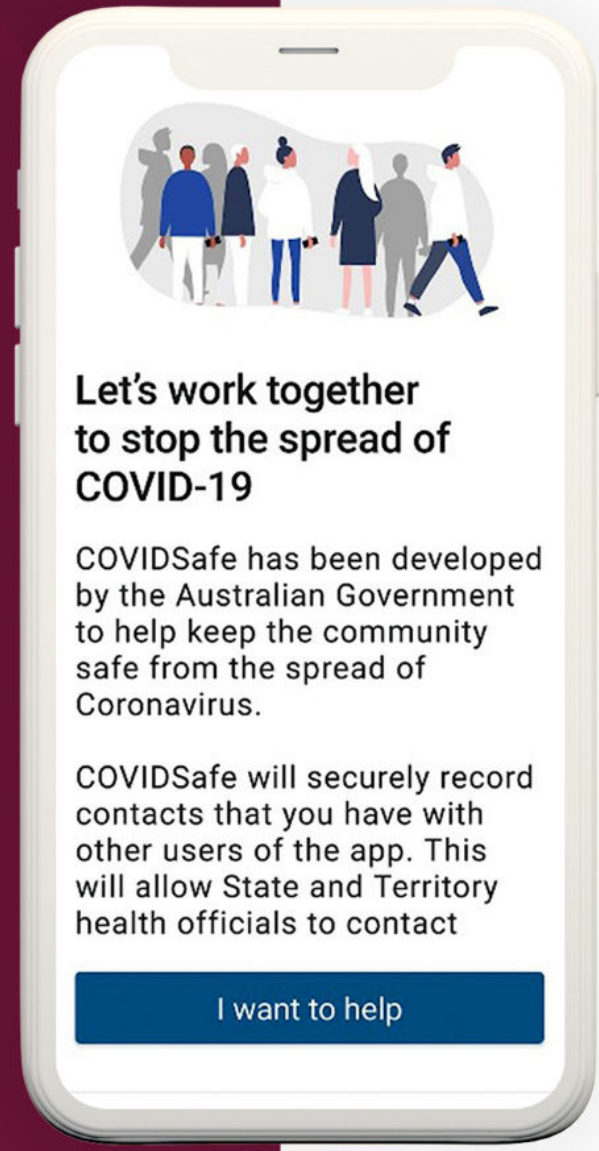
Downloading the app helps to protect you and your family, friends and fellow Australians.

By helping state and territory health officials to quickly identify and contact people who may have been exposed to COVID-19, the COVIDSafe app ensures we are able to continue playing and can quickly tackle potential issues should they arise.

Download from the Apple App store and Google Play.

Available on the App Store

ANDROID APP ON Google play



OVERVIEW

Football Queensland's priority is to safeguard the health and wellbeing of the football community and wider public during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Stage 1 of the Queensland Government's Return to Play Guide outlined that no indoor or outdoor formal organised individual or team community sport or training is permitted.

Stage 2 commenced on 1 June 2020, with non-contact activity permitted for up to 20 people and clubs able to resume training sessions only as per the Return to Training guidelines.

Stage 3 commenced on 3 July 2020, with contact training permitted as per the Industry COVID Safe Plan and the Return to Play Guide.

Stage 4 commenced on 1 October 2020, permitting football clubs to continue standard activities with physical distancing requirements off the field of play as per the COVID Safe Plan and the Return to Play Guide.

Indoor sports facilities are permitted to open and continue standard activity with one person per two 2 square metres, regardless of facility

Stage 5 commenced on 1 December 2020, permitting football clubs to continue standard activity with physical distancing requirements off the field of play as per the COVID Safe Plan and the Return to Play Guide.

Indoor sports facilities are permitted to open and continue standard activity with one person per two 2 square metres, regardless of facility size.

WE ARE HERE

PRINCIPLES
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Football Queensland is following the framework provided by the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) and is implementing the training conditions in this document in line with Level B.

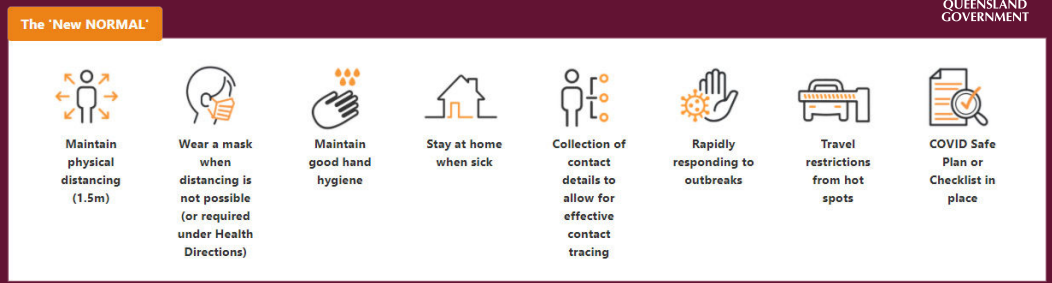
The AIS Framework document can be found **here.**

Australian Government

PRINCIPLES

QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT

The Queensland Chief Health Officer has approved that some sport and recreation activities can resume according to the following rules:



PREVIOUS STAGE

STAGES 1 - 4

(PREVIOUS STAGES)

Outdoor - including team, individual, contact and non-contact activity

Through Stages 1 and 2, activity restricted to non-contact and limited numbers.

Through Stages 3 and 4, standard activity permitted with physical distancing requirements off the field of play.

Indoor - including team, individual, contact and non-contact activities

In Stage 1, no indoor activity permitted. However, exceptions including swimming pools operating for up to 10 people and tennis, golf and lawn bowls deemed as social sporting activities permitted to occur while complying with all other health directions.

In Stage 2, activity restricted to non-contact and limited numbers.

Through Stage 3 and 4, standard activity permitted. The maximum number of people is based on occupant density requirements depending on facility size.

WE ARE HERE

STAGE 5 ONWARDS

(WE ARE HERE)

Outdoor - including team, individual, contact and non-contact activity

- Standard activity permitted with physical distancing off the field of play
- Outdoor events with fewer than 1,500 people must comply with a COVID Safe Event Checklist; no further approval needed
- Outdoor events between 1,500 and 10,000 people must comply with a COVID Safe Event Plan approved by local public health units
- Outdoor events with over 10,000 people must comply with a COVID Safe Event Plan approved by the Chief Health Officer
- COVID Safe Industry Plans continue to apply
- COVID Safe Checklists continue to apply for further information
- All activity is to be conducted in accordance with the relevant Industry and Stadia COVID Safe Plans and Public Health Directives. This includes organisations detailing how persons will be tracked, traced including spectators

Indoor - including team, individual, contact and non-contact activities

- Indoor sports facilities can open with one person per 2 square metres, regardless of facility size
- Indoor events with fewer than 500 people must comply with a COVID Safe Event Checklist; no further approval needed
- Indoor events between 500 and 10,000 people must comply with a COVID Safe Event Plan approved by local public health units
- Indoor events with over 10,000 people must comply with a COVID Safe Event Plan approved by the Chief Health Officer
- COVID Safe Industry Plans continue to apply
- COVID Safe Checklists continue to apply for further information
- All activity is to be conducted in accordance with the relevant Industry and Stadia COVID Safe Plans and Public Health Directives. This includes organisations detailing how persons will be tracked, traced including spectators

COVID SAFE KEY PRINCIPLES

STAGE FIVE

This document outlines the conditions that must be met to continue standard activity in line with Federal and State Government guidance.

Failure to meet these conditions may void your insurance policies under the national insurance program, may be dealt with under FQ's Grievance, Disciplinary and Tribunal Bylaw, and critically, may delay the return to competition.

Contact
Full contact is permitted on the field of play in line with pre-COVID contact activities. At all other times, participants, coaches, officials, trainers and spectators are to observe physical distancing requirements and undertake sound hygiene practices as detailed in the relevant approved Industry COVID Safe Plan.

Facility Capacity
The total number of people to attend an activity, training and competition at indoor venues is to be based on occupant density of one person per two square metres. For outdoor venues, physical distancing off the field of play is required. Risks will be managed through mandatory record keeping, through group segmentation and buffer zones as appropriate. Individual organisations and facility managers will be responsible for implementing these requirements in line with the relevant approved Industry COVID Safe Plan.

Facility Usage
All elements of community sport, recreation and fitness facilities are accessible in line with relevant health guidelines and directives. This means facilities such as canteens, change rooms, bathrooms, storage rooms, bars will reopen and operating hours can also be amended. Industry Plans will detail how organisations will manage the use of ancillary facilities in relation to cleaning/sanitisation and flow of people within venues. All facility components will be operated in accordance with the relevant approved Industry COVID Safe Plan.

Events
Such as championships, markets, carnivals and gala days can recommence. Organisations must ensure the relevant approvals are in place based on the number of people attending as seen in the Roadmap to Easing COVID-19 restrictions. **CLICK HERE**

Stadia
Strict physical distancing measures and hygiene practices will remain central to COVID Safe Site-Specific Plans, in line with Public Health Directions. Group segmentation and buffering measures will be used to reduce co-mingling. Public messaging will ensure that patrons are aware of all requirements during sporting events and concerts. COVID Safe Site-Specific Plans for stadia, where applicable, will address transport management for patrons travelling to and from venues, including alternatives to public transport.

Compliance
All activity is to be conducted in accordance with relevant Industry and Stadia COVID Safe Plans and Public Health Directives. This includes organisations detailing how allpersons at the activity/facility will be tracked, and traced, including spectators.

FOOTBALL QUEENSLAND

PRIOR TO TRAINING & GAMES

TRAINING & GAMES

INDIVIDUALS

You must not attend training/games if you:

- ☐ Are unwell (including any signs/symptoms of cold, flu, COVID-19 or other illness);
- ☐ Have been in close contact with a known active case of COVID-19;
- ☐ Have travelled overseas in the previous 14 days; or
- ☐ Have been to a declared COVID-19 hotspot in the previous 14 days **CLICK HERE FOR HOTSPOTS**

Those with any COVID-19 symptoms, no matter how mild, are strongly encouraged to get tested.

Stay home and isolate until you get the results and your symptoms resolve.

PRIOR TO TRAINING & GAMES

CLUBS

As we recommence training and games, clubs must:

- ☐ Discuss with the landowner of your facility and Council about the conditions of use and any local restrictions if not already known
- ☐ Comply with any additional requirements imposed by the landowner
- ☐ Ensure the venue meets all conditions in this document including particularly hygiene and pitch marking
- ☐ Ensure all communications with members about the return to training/games include this document, highlighting the information when not to attend training/games
- ☐ Communication with members is critical to maintaining a good COVID Safe environment
- ☐ Use of area designations for activities e.g. spectator areas, bar / food & beverage area and adequate supervision resources
- ☐ All club officials, coaches and anyone coordinating the training sessions must have read and be familiar with these guidelines
- ☐ Ensure all participants, coaches, volunteers and spectators have been informed they are not to attend if they are unwell, have been in close contact with a known case of COVID-19, have travelled overseas in the previous 14 days, or have been to a declared COVID-19 hotspot in the previous 14 days
- ☐ Ensure that all players and coaches are appropriately registered on PlayFootball
- ☐ Clubs should have a COVID Safe Coordinator who has undertaken TAFE's free online COVID Safe training and can oversee the delivery of the COVID Safe Plan, oversee attendance recording and act as a general point of contact for information **CLICK HERE**
- ☐ Clubs must follow the relevant industry plan for each specific area e.g. The Field Sports Industry Plan and if a canteen/bar The Cafe and Hospitality Industry Plan
- ☐ Ensure requirements around density of patrons are met, social distancing is adhered to and the amount of co-mingling is limited
- ☐ Display the COVID Safe Statement of Compliance at the venue **CLICK HERE**

FOOTBALL QUEENSLAND

HYGIENE PROTOCOLS

HYGIENE PROTOCOLS

CLUBS

All clubs must ensure, in conjunction with the Council / landowner that:

- ☐ All surfaces, equipment and objects (including around entry points) are wiped down after each training session with appropriate anti-bacterial /disinfectant wipes or soap, particularly those frequently touched – this includes door handles, light switches, phones, remote controls, pitch entry points and any other high touch areas as well as all equipment including balls
- ☐ Regular and thorough hand washing is promoted via prominent signage (including at entry and exit points – to be marked as such) around the venue.
- ☐ Signage is available to download via our Return to Football portal
- ☐ Prominent signage (including at entry and exit points to be marked as such) around the venue instructing people when not to attend training
- ☐ Hand sanitiser dispensers are provided in prominent places around the venue (including entry and exit points) and are regularly refilled
- ☐ Soap dispensers in toilets are regularly refilled
- ☐ Bins are provided around the venue and regularly emptied
- ☐ Toilet facilities are regularly cleaned with disinfectant - advice on cleaning is available from the Department of Health and Human Services

HYGIENE PROTOCOLS

INDIVIDUALS

All individuals attending training & games must:

- ☐ Wash hands with hand sanitiser immediately before and after training and during scheduled breaks in training
- ☐ Not spit at any time
- ☐ Not share drink bottles and clearly label their own bottle
- ☐ Take their training bib or any other items worn/used during training, home to wash individually
- ☐ Carry hand sanitiser in order to enable good personal hygiene
- ☐ Cover mouth and nose with a tissue or your elbow (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze and place tissues directly in bins
- ☐ Not share pens or clip boards
- ☐ Avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean

FOOTBALL QUEENSLAND

ATTENDING TRAINING & GAMES

FROM DECEMBER 1, 2020

PROTOCOLS
COACH/CLUB OFFICIAL

The following conditions must be implemented:

- ☐ Recommend that a COVID Safe Coordinator is allocated to each session to take responsibility of completing the cleaning requirements before the next group arrives
- ☐ With an increase in participants, clubs / organisations may need to add more COVID Safe Officers to manage requirements
- ☐ Ensure all participants, coaches, volunteers and spec tators have been informed they are not to attend if they are unwell, have been in close contact with a known case of COVID-19, have travelled overseas in the previous 14 days, or have been to a declared COVID-19 hotspot in the previous 14 days
- ☐ Staggered training start times to minimise risk of congregation
- ☐ A gap of no less than 15 minutes in between scheduled training sessions to avoid congregation
- ☐ An accurate record of all attendees (including parents/carers) for the purposes of contact tracing must be kept using QR code reporting processes and attendance registers
- ☐ No more than one person per 2 square metres for indoor sports facilities, regardless of facility size
- ☐ Physical distance off the field of play required for out door sports facilities
- ☐ Heading of the ball can take place during training
- ☐ Contact training is now permitted
- ☐ Handling of equipment must be minimized
- ☐ Changerooms / showers are able to be used but must meet the guidelines below
  CLICK HERE

PROTOCOLS

COACH/CLUB OFFICIAL CONT

- ☐ Sharing of equipment must be minimised
- ☐ No use of shared equipment that touches the head or face or cannot be effectively cleaned i.e. soft materials or clothing
- ☐ Adherence to the hygiene protocols in this document
- ☐ Regular breaks are to be provided for the purpose of rehydrating and hand sanitising
- ☐ No social activity is to occur once training has concluded
- ☐ Players must leave promptly in a staged approach
- ☐ All normal safety protocols apply – including Child Safety requirements (WWCC)

PROTOCOLS
PLAYER/PARENT

When attending training & games, the following conditions must be observed:

- ☐ You must not congregate at the entry point
- ☐ You must bring your own drink bottles clearly labelled
- ☐ No sharing of drink bottles is permitted
- ☐ You must follow the hygiene protocols in this document - regular breaks will be provided for the purpose of rehydrating and hand sanitising
- ☐ Physical distancing of 1.5 metres must be maintained off the field of play
- ☐ No more than one person per 2 square metres for indoor sports facilities, regardless of facility size
- ☐ Heading of the ball can take place during training
- ☐ Contact training is now permitted
- ☐ Handling of equipment must be minimized.
- ☐ Sharing of equipment must be minimised. No use of shared equipment that touches the head or face or cannot be effectively cleaned i.e. soft materials or clothing
- ☐ You must provide your details including full name, phone number, and date and time of attendance when you check in at the venue

COVID SAFE PLAN

FIELD SET-UP GUIDELINES

COVID SAFE PLAN

FIELD SET-UP GUIDELINES

The field set-up guidelines are intended to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 among members, participants, coaches, officials, administrators/volunteers, visitors, families and the broader community.

STAGE 3 ONWARDS: PLAYING SPACES

Outdoor fields can accommodate multiple playing spaces or zones and will be mitigated with no co-mingling between groups by meeting the following requirements:

- ☐ Indoor sports facilities can open with a maximum oc cupant density of one person per 2 square metres, regardless of facility size
- ☐ For outdoor venues physical distancing off the field of play is required (>1.5 metres).
- ☐ Each playing space must be clearly marked and minimise the risk of balls moving into another zone.
- ☐ No group from one playing space can come into contact with a group of another playing space.
- ☐ Must not create unnecessary risk of people congregating.

Management and segmentation of groups of participants through:

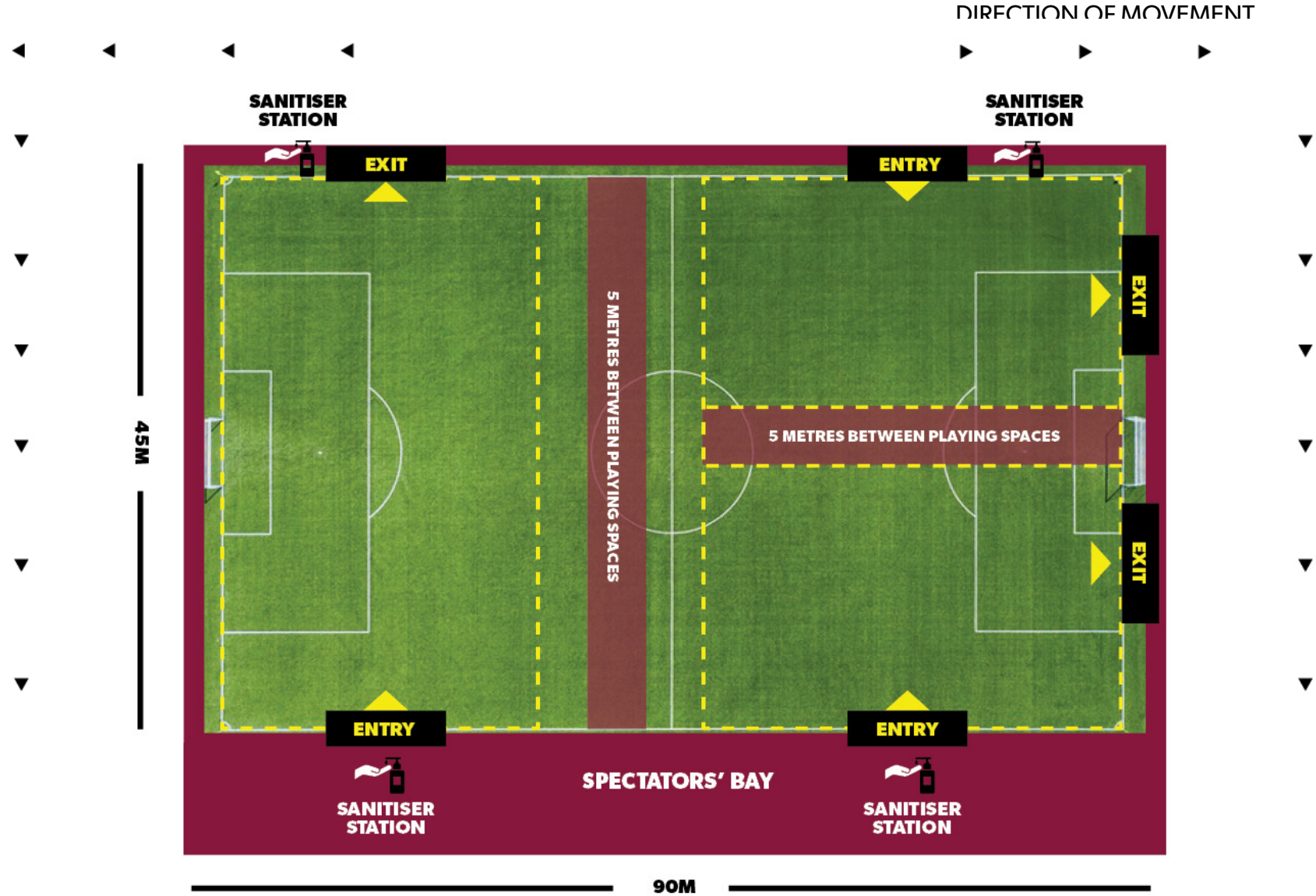
- ☐ Each playing space has a different entry and exit to other playing spaces
- ☐ At least 5 metres between playing spaces
- ☐ Separation whilst in play
- ☐ Scheduling – staggered start and finish times, staggered at each playing space to eliminate group overlap

Implementation of strict hygiene and sanitisation measures including:

- ☐ Equipment cannot be shared between zones
- ☐ Hand sanitizers are available at the entry and exit of each zone
- ☐ High contact points within a playing space must be cleaned before another group can access

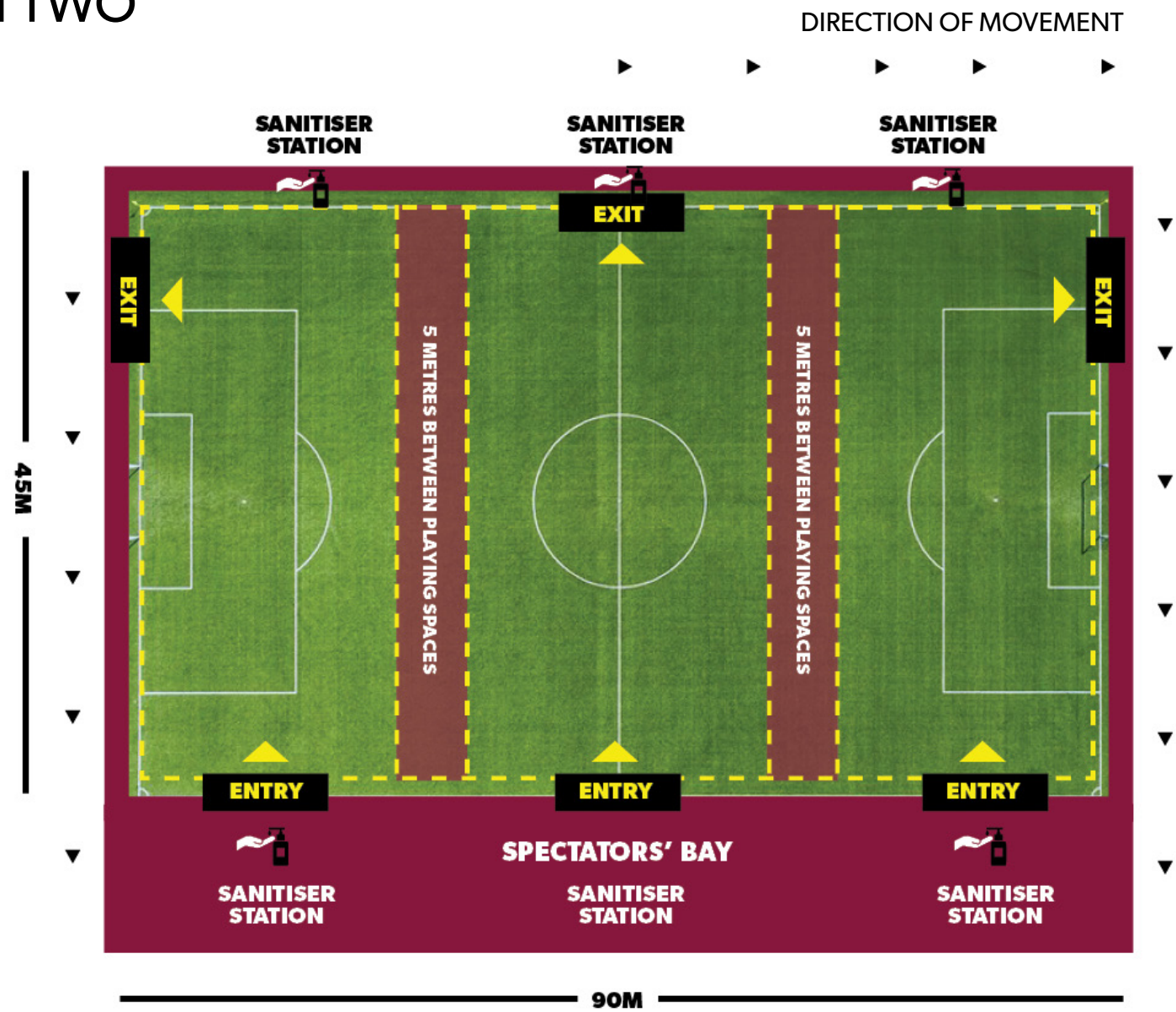
PLAYING SPACES

OPTION ONE



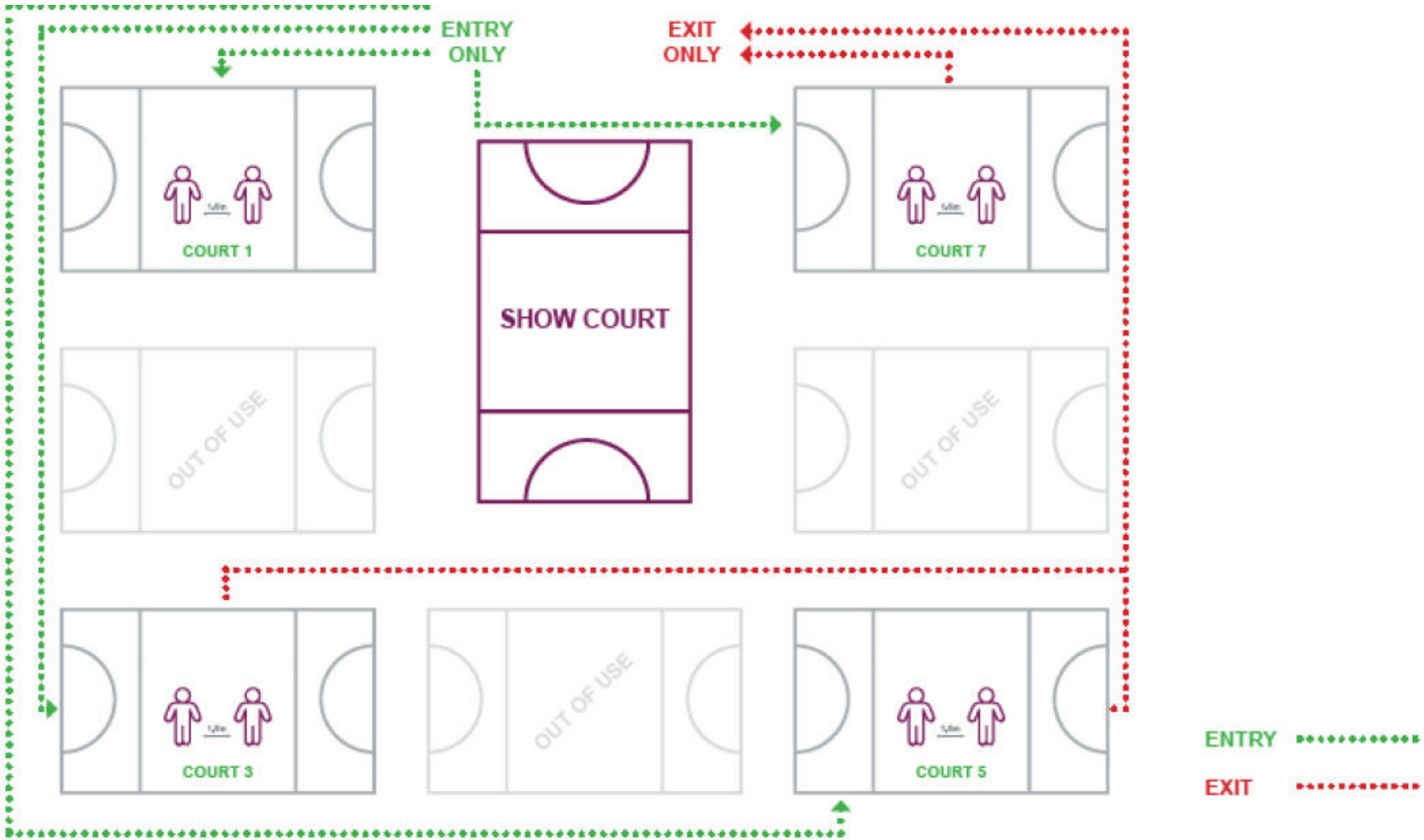
PLAYING SPACES

OPTION TWO



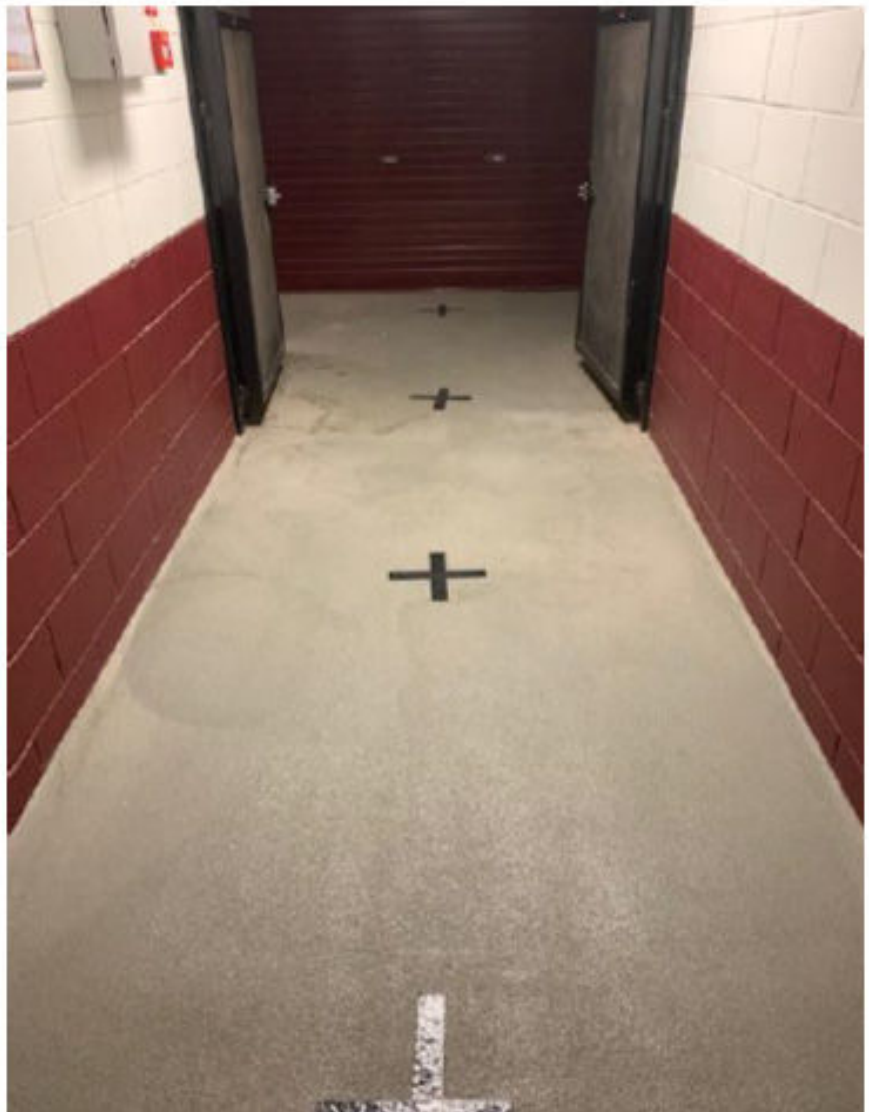
PLAYING SPACES

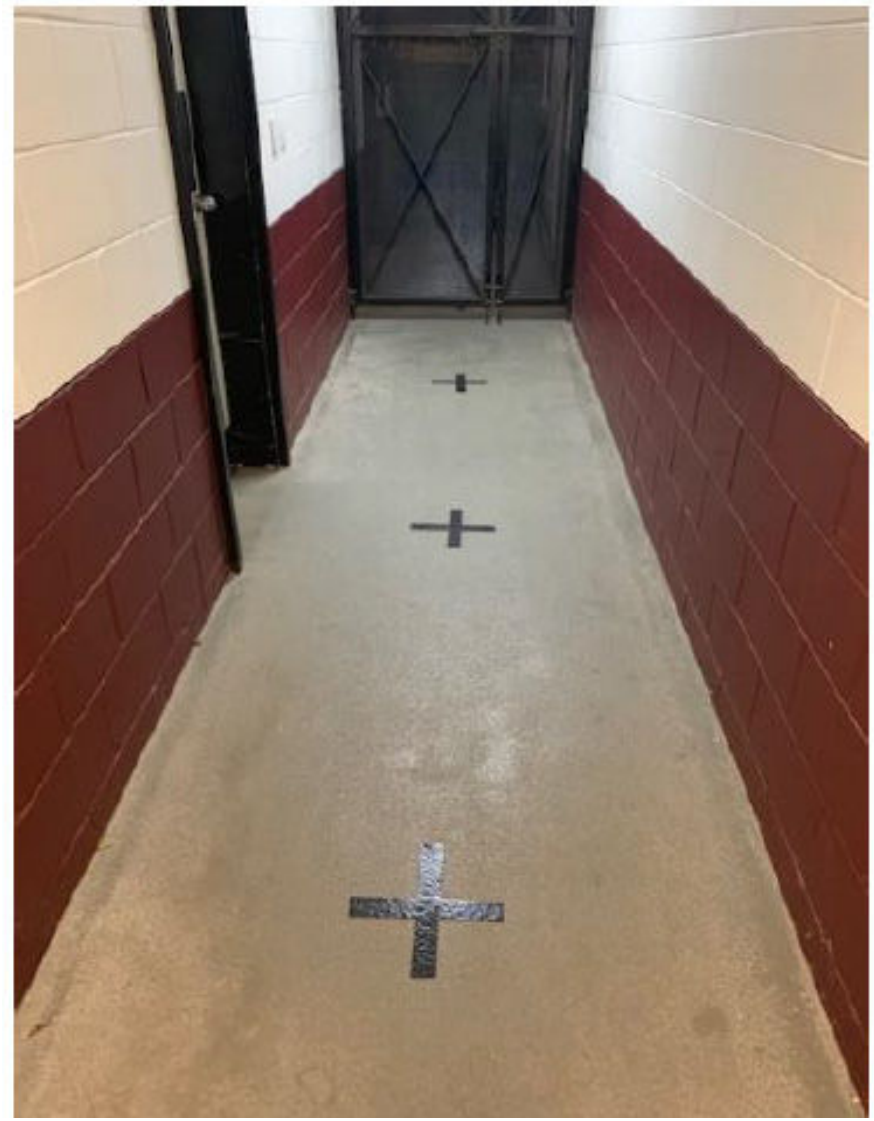
FUTSAL COURT EXAMPLE (NISSAN ARENA)



SOCIAL DISTANCING

MARKERS ON ENTRY





CONTACT TRACING

- ☐ Queensland clubs have been provided with unique QR code posters to track attendance using EVA Check-In. All attendees must check in and out of a venue by scanning this QR code with their mobile phone. This is a critical requirement for serving food and drinks (e.g. canteens) as per the COVID Safe Checklist for dining and drinking
  CLICK HERE

- ☐ Records of attendance must be kept for all visitors to a venue including participants, parents, spectators, club staff and volunteers. Records to be kept for 56 days

- ☐ Any person visiting a venue must sign in with their time of arrival and should also be strongly encouraged to provide a time of departure or estimated duration, with signage displaying signing out allows for more effective contact tracing. Venues should display signage encouraging patrons to sign out.

- ☐ Where schools are attending the program and/or venue, the Provider will not need to collect the contact information of the children attending as part of a school attendance. The Provider will be required to confirm that the school is maintaining records of which children have attended. The Provider will need to collect the contact details for all the adults attending with the school children including teachers, teacher aides, and parents, etc. The Provider will also need to collect the information for a point of contact at the school who can provide the details of the school children attending if required.

TRAINING SCHEDULE

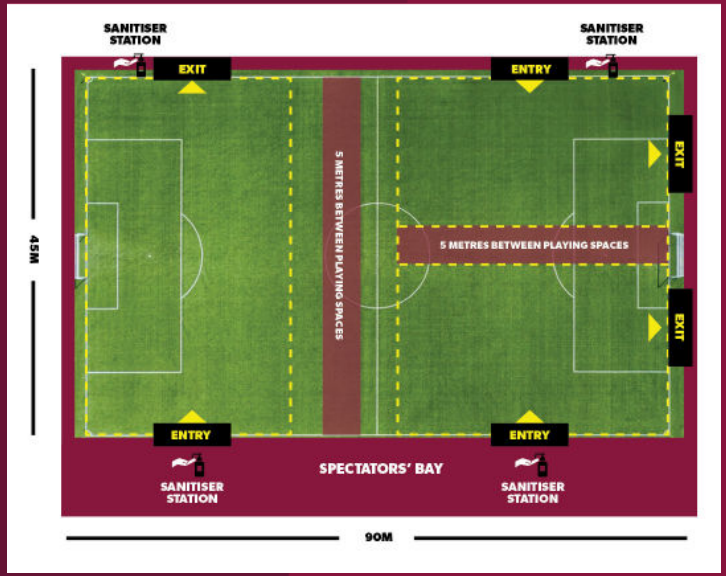
EXAMPLE

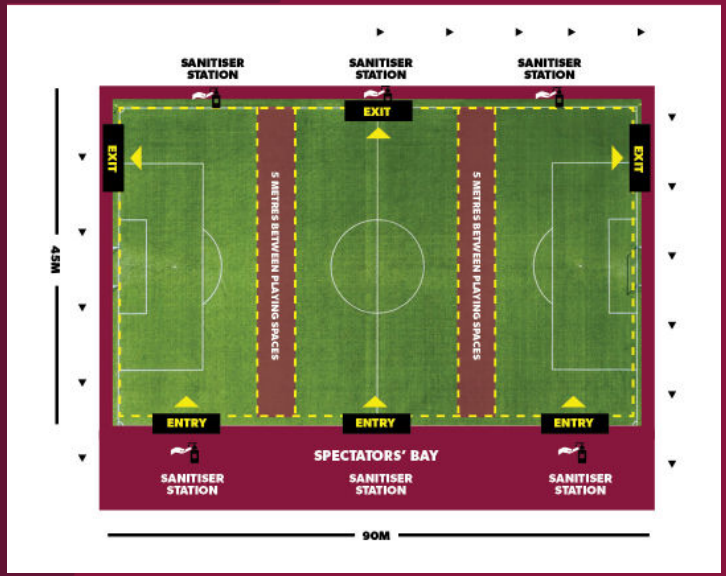
	ENTRY GATE 1 - SOUTHERN CARPARK		ENTRY GATE 2 - NORTHERN CARPARK	
TIME	**FIELD 1 ZONE 1**	**FIELD 1 ZONE 2**	**FIELD 2 ZONE 3**	**FIELD 2 ZONE 4**
BOOKING 1	4:00PM - 4:45PM	4:10PM - 4:55PM	4:05PM - 4:50PM	4:15PM - 5:00PM
BOOKING 2	5:00PM - 5:45PM	5:10PM - 5:55PM	5:05PM - 5:50PM	5:15PM - 6:00PM
BOOKING 3	6:00PM - 6:45PM	6:10PM - 6:55PM	6:05PM - 6:50PM	6:15PM - 7:00PM
BOOKING 4	7:00PM - 7:45PM	7:10PM - 7:55PM	7:05PM - 7:50PM	7:15PM - 8:00PM

MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE
AND SOCIAL DISTANCING

Football clubs will adopt the principles below in regards to movement around venues and social distancing:

- ☐ Where possible all ingress and egress will be at different points
- ☐ Movement of people around fields and venues should be one way
- ☐ Social distance markers are clearly visible.
- ☐ No co-mingling of groups in playing spaces/zones.
- ☐ Management and segmentation of groups of participants though scheduling.
- ☐ Implementation of strict hygiene measures at all entry and exit points, communal areas and managing equipment.





MANAGEMENT OF UNWELL PARTICPANTS

- ☐ Self-isolate at home if presenting symptoms.
- ☐ Compare the symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), with the common cold and flu.
- ☐ Anyone who is unwell or develops a fever, a cough, sore throat or shortness of breath, must contact a doctor or call 13HEALTH (13 43 25 84).
- ☐ Liaise with public health authorities and facilitate the sharing of information about all symptomatic participants at an activity run by your organisation, subject to privacy law.
- ☐ Notify Football Queensland and the Department Housing and Public Works (Sport and Recreation)
- ☐ Contact participants (refer to attendance register) if an attendee subsequently becomes unwell and provide advice on what actions should be taken. If an outbreak does occur at your facility, the register will need to be provided to relevant authorities (i.e. Department of Health) in a timely fashion.

Minimum details to be collected include:

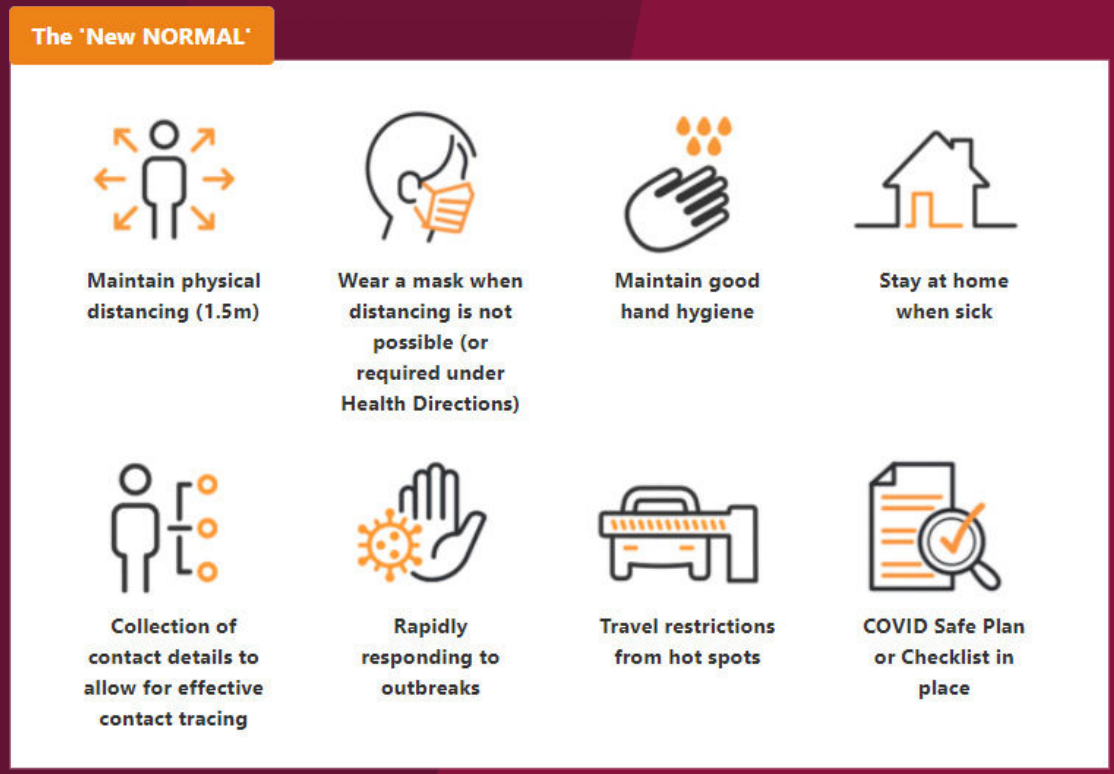
- ☐ Date of entry
- ☐ First name and surname
- ☐ Phone number
- ☐ Time in
- ☐ Time out
- ☐ Club & team/group

- ☐ Communicate isolation and medical procedures for all players, members, volunteers and their families at the onset of any symptoms including organisation facilities that can be used to manage symptomatic participants.
- ☐ Identify with clear and unambiguous signage, a space that can be used to isolate staff or participants who become unwell at an activity and cannot leave immediately. The isolation area should be equipped with necessary PPE supplies to facilitate hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette, such as face masks and gloves.

MANAGEMENT OF UNWELL PARTICPANTS

CONT

- ☐ Ensure staff/volunteers understand that participants who become unwell should be im mediately isolated and given a clean disposable facemask to wear.
  Establish procedures to help unwell staff or participants leave the event as soon as possible and added protections for activity staff in such circumstances.
- ☐ Train volunteers/organisation management on treatment of symptomatic participants and disinfecting of facilities used by such particpants.
- ☐ Confirm notification protocols for notifying public health authorities and other attendees of symptomatic participants.



This document is current as at 11 February 2020. FQ will continue to work with the State Government, Football Australia, Councils and other bodies regarding football during the COVID-19 pandemic. The document is subject to change including upon the advice of government and clubs are expected to remain up-to-date with the latest advice.

Further information guide(s) will be published in line with the most up-to-date government advice.

RESOURCES

Queensland Government Return to Play Guide: **CLICK HERE**

COVID Safe Industry Plan for Field Sports: **CLICK HERE**

Queensland Health Resources and Fact Sheets: **CLICK HERE**

Return to Play Portal: **CLICK HERE**

All approved COVID Safe Industry Plans for sport, recreation and fitness are located at: **CLICK HERE**

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QUEENSLAND