**Covid-19 Standard Operating Procedures for club activities**

**(Updated 3/4/22)**

*As you will no doubt be aware, we are now in a phase of ‘living with COVID’ and government guidelines have been changed to reflect this -* <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>.

*However there are still high numbers of cases in the UK and there are those that are still very concerned about catching COVID-19 and the impact in may have on their health/loved ones.*

*It remains important to be mindful of the risk of COVID-19 transmission however there are no guarantees that you will not catch COVID on a club event. The decision to attend or not remains with individual members.*

**Participants**

* As per current government guidance, do not attend an event if you have symptoms of a respiratory infection, such as COVID-19, and you have a high temperature or do not feel well enough to go to work or carry out normal activities; you are advised to try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people.
* Testing is no longer freely available, however it is strongly recommended that you test prior to attending an event which involves being indoors with others.
* Please bring hand sanitiser with you on all activities and maintain good hand hygiene.
* Whilst car sharing following safer travel guidance - [Coronavirus (COVID-19): safer travel guidance for passengers - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers). Wearing masks, having a window open and sitting diagonally if possible will also reduce the risk of transmission.
* **Although vaccinations are not mandatory to attend an AOAC event, Bristol Public Health have asked the committee to highlight that vaccinations and boosters are encouraged by the government in order to offer the best protection from COVID-19.**

**Organisers and leaders**

The below gives an idea of additional things to consider when planning and leading an event during the Covid-19 epidemic.

* The activity needs to be planned to stay within the current government regulations in relation the country your event is being held in.
* For overseas trips please see https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-abroad-from-england-during-coronavirus-covid-19
* There is a recommendation that an activity leader or nominated first aider who can provide first aid, is available on all trips.
* Have consideration for communities who might be affected by an event.
* Landowners, walkers, cyclists, and emergency authorities should be treated with extra courtesy.
* Participants need to be well within their capabilities on an event. Make the minimum ability needed to take part clear in the activity description.

**Refunds for events if you are unable to attend**

We are now in a phase of ‘living with COVID’, and our refund policy has changed to reflect this.

For residential trips (not camping) published on the AOAC calendar prior to the review of this guidance (April 8-10 Swanage climbing trip and May 6 -8 North Wales climbing trip), a refund will be given to members who cannot attend a trip due to having pre-trip COVID or respiratory symptoms and/or pre-trip lateral flow test being positive.

All other events – including camping – will be subject to pre-COVID policy for event refunds – if you cannot attend a trip for any reason including illness, you will only get a refund if the organiser can fill your space.

If there is enough money in the contingency, refunds will be given for exceptional circumstances at the discretion of the organiser. The organiser can consult the committee if necessary.

Personal travel insurance will cover this if members wish to arrange this themselves.

***For residential trips, please ensure that you include the following guidance in pre-trip instructions:***

**Guidance for residential trips (updated 3/4/22)**

*Government guidance has been recently changed and testing for COVID-19 is no longer available for free for the general public.*

*However there are still high numbers of cases in the UK and there are those that are still very concerned about catching COVID-19 and the impact in may have on their health/loved ones.*

*In order to reduce the risk of infection on residential trips, there are a few guidelines that need to be followed. These will be reviewed by the committee on a regular basis.*

*NB These apply whether or not you have been vaccinated, as you can still get infected/pass on infection even if double-vaccinated.*

***Before the event****:* we strongly recommend doing a lateral flow test the day the event starts.

As per current government guidance, DO NOT attend an event if you have symptoms of a respiratory infection, such as COVID-19, and you have a high temperature or do not feel well enough to go to work or carry out normal activities; you are advised to try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people.

If you cannot attend please give the organiser as much notice as possible as they may have a waiting list.

**During the event:**it is **strongly recommended** todo a further lateral flow test each day. Feel free to wear a mask if you wish to.

If you test positive and/or develop symptoms of a respiratory infection during the trip, please let the organiser know straight away. In this case you will need to leave the event, preferably with anyone you shared a car with.