



## MGC Re-opening Guidelines Phase Two

The DfT yesterday confirmed, through the BGA, that we can expect to resume two seat training, experience and mutual flights from the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

The BGA has added the guidelines under which we are expected to operate. These can be summarised as:

1. Members who are vulnerable or extremely vulnerable (if in doubt, please seek advice from a GP) should follow the relevant guidance. This may mean that they cannot visit a gliding club.
2. Members who have COVID 19 symptoms must stay at home and follow NHS guidance
3. Members who:
  - have been diagnosed with COVID 19 at any time during the past 14 days, or have had
  - symptoms of COVID 19 at any time in past 8 days,
  - or have been in close contact with someone who has COVID 19 (less than 1m for more than 15 mins or direct physical contact) in the past 14 days, or
  - are required to be quarantinedmust stay away from the club and follow the current NHS guidance.
- Mitigating actions are necessary to reduce the risk of transmission between members, who must comply with social distancing requirements. Ideally, people should maintain 2m distance from each other. Where that is not possible and is permitted under national public health guidance (as it is in England from 4<sup>th</sup> July) they should maintain 1m distance with a nose and mouth covering (known as a face covering)
4. Members may be feeling anxious about visiting the site whilst at the same time having a sense of duty. It should be made clear to all members that there is no obligation of attendance or participation

When masks or face coverings are being worn:

- In all cases, masks (or any other protective equipment) must not interfere with the operation of the aircraft.
- Pilots need to consider the likelihood of spectacles or sunglasses steaming up.
- Pilots flying solo should consider removing their mask after closing the canopy and refit the mask after flight ahead of opening the canopy.
- Pilots flying two seat aircraft should keep their masks in place but only if it is safe to do so.
- Two-seat flying will require a pre-launch communication check between both pilots.
- Consider that in general people may not be heard as clearly as they otherwise would be.

The BGA also recommends encouraging all pilots to adopt a low risk approach to restarting flying and understand that it is important. Examples include;

- Re-establishing currency on a familiar launch type and in a familiar aircraft type
- Re-establishing currency before undertaking a cross-country flight
- Practicing a turbo start near the home airfield
- Thinking through the practical considerations of an away landing:
  - other airfields and strips may be closed or not allow relaunch
  - road retrieve arrangements, unless provided by members of the pilot's household, conflict with social distancing
  - potential to compromise local residents' and landowners' social distancing needs, with potential for reputational impact to gliding

MGC intends to restart two-seater flying from 4<sup>th</sup> July. Initially we will have two training gliders available (K21 and K13) to save cost on restarting full insurance cover. The third will come online sometime after. Further guidance about how we will operate is available [from this link](#). Many thanks to Mark Sanders for writing this document for us.

For the time being we will continue to operate on a voluntary basis.

You will be able to use your caravan from 4<sup>th</sup> July and stay overnight. But there will not be any catering available and you will not be able to use the showers.

There will be no rooms available for a while yet.

Use of the toilets will remain as at present.

Catering will not resume until the end of July at the earliest.

The bar will remain closed until we decide on a way to keep to the social distancing rules and to safely take payments.

Parachutes will remain where they are now.

The clubhouse will not open yet, but we are reviewing the situation regularly.

Members are reminded that 2m distancing is still the recommendation unless mitigations are in place.

You may find these additional links of interest:

[Government guidelines on recreational and general aviation](#)  
[BGA guidance](#)

We will, of course, keep this plan under continual review and be prepared to amend and improve it as experience dictates.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the club, and in the air, soon!

Jon Hall  
**Chairman**  
Midland Gliding Club