COVID-19 SAFETY NOTICE TO CLUBS
AHEAD OF 2021/22 SEASON
COVID-19 Safety Has Never Been More Important

COVID-19 Safety will be a part of rugby for some time. For us to be able to continue to play games safely, there must be a culture of COVID-19 safety in clubs that drives good habits, safe behaviours and gets games played.

Team sports are built on trust. You trust your team mate to fulfil their role. You are trusted to do yours. So if games are to be played in the 2021/22 season, we all need to step up.

Many of our new habits are challenging. It's hard to coach with a mask on, it's disappointing to miss training because of a symptom and we've all missed access to dressing rooms. Sometimes we just want things to be the way before.

We don't know if or when that can happen. But we can play rugby right now. It's the game we love and it's the game we must protect and that means having measures in place for everyone's safety. Vaccination, mask wearing and responsible personal behaviour are the most important steps we can take in protecting our game.

Please take a moment to remind yourself of some of the important things we must do and continue to do every week.

Colin McEntee, IRFU Rugby Development Director

1	COVID-19 Club Safety Plan:

Clubs must have an up-to-date COVID-19 Safety Plan. As things change, our plans should change with it so that clubs take the right measures every week to keep COVID out of their club. Club members should know what they can do be a part of that COVID-19 Safety Plan. A club's safety plan is only as strong as the responsibility its members take for it.

2	Personal Safety:

All club members should continue to submit a health declaration for every time they want to attend the club.
If a club member feels unwell or has a symptom, they should simply stay at home. It's our best chance of keeping COVID out of our clubs.
Club members must also be able to trust each other to wash their hands, maintain social distancing, clean equipment, wear face coverings and be aware of the latest public health guidelines in place.
Don't be the reason you, your team mate, or your whole team can't play a game of rugby this season.

3	Spectators:

Spectators play a fundamental role in the rugby experience. Crowds also present an increased risk of COVID-19 transmission and congestion around common areas such as entrances and exits must be managed.
ROI: The numbers permitted at outdoor organised events is a maximum of 200 attendees for the majority of venues, with a maximum of 500 for outdoor stadia/venues with a minimum accredited capacity of 5,000 with appropriate protective measures.
NI: Click Here For Guide To Calculating Spectator Capacity At Smaller Venues

4	Transport and Facilities:

Individual transport minimises the risk of players contracting the virus in indoor environments and close contacts being identified within a squad. Where buses are being used, social distancing should be maintained and a maximum of 75% capacity is recommended.
Use of indoor facilities dramatically increases the risk of COVID-19 transmission. Dressing Rooms remain closed in ROI as per public health guidelines.

5	Hospitality Services:

Clubs are advised to ensure sectoral guidelines are in place for all hospitality services:
Click Here for Failte Ireland Operational Guidelines.
Click Here For Tourism Northern Ireland Guidelines For Hospitality Venues.

6	Close Contacts:

People who are fully vaccinated and symptom free who come in contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 do not have to restrict movements. See guidance below for full details.

ROI Information: https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/covid19/contact-tracing/close-contact/
ROI COVID Tracker App: https://www.gov.ie/en/service/da832-download-the-covid-tracker-app/
NI Information: https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/coronavirus-covid-19-contact-tracing#toc-1
StopCOVID NI App: https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/coronavirus-covid-19-stopcovid-ni-proximity-app

READY FOR RUGBY