



BILLINGHAM TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB - COVID19 ACTION PLAN

This Action Plan has been developed following a comprehensive Risk assessment of the hazards relating to the spread of Covid19 at Billingham Town Football Club. The action plan has been developed to take account of the specific issues relating to the football club in line with Government guidance and the advice issued by the Football Association.

The Club has appointed Harrison Hudson (Club Medical Officer) as the Covid19 Officer.

The action plan identifies protocols for the following areas:

- All football related activity to include the following:

1. Travelling to Training and Matches

Best practice advice in line with current guidelines will be circulated to all players and coaching staff and be adopted where practicable.

Players should not attend training or competitive matches if they or anyone in their household have displayed signs of the following:

- Fever – Dry Cough – Headache – Sore throat – Breathing difficulties
Loss of taste or smell.
- Generally feeling unwell
- If a player displays any of those symptom then a 14 days self - isolation period must be maintained and a member of the coaching staff must be informed.

2. Arrival At Venues

Prior to arriving at the Club everyone should self-assess for Covid-19 symptoms before every training session or match.

If individuals are symptomatic or living in a household with possible or actual Covid-19 infection you must not participate or attend.

The Club Football Secretary will liaise with the secretary of the away team on match days prior to the game and ask to be provided with a list of Club personnel, players and coaching staff and also ask for an assurance that all relevant personnel have been personally checked for Covid19 symptoms on a regular basis.

The Covid19 officer and his staff will personally check all players/coaching staff (home teams) for symptoms upon arrival at the ground by means of a temperature check. This includes league and cup matches and also all training sessions.

The Covid -19 officer will maintain a register of all personnel involved including contact details to support NHS track and trace.

A car park supervisor will be appointed to ensure safe entry into the ground and to prevent large gatherings of crowds where practicable. Supporters will be also reminded of the social distancing guidelines.

Clear signage will be posted outside the ground relating to social distancing and also coronavirus information.

3. Inside the Ground (Subject to approval of spectators returning)

Clear signage will be posted inside and outside the ground relating to social distancing and also coronavirus information.

Spectators will make themselves aware of and adhere to the code of conduct on display inside the ground.

When arriving at the ground the Club will encourage early arrival to prevent the build up of queues and social distance of 2 metres will be maintained if queues do form. Queues will be monitored via the car park volunteer.

Hand sanitisation stations will be available just inside the ground and all visiting spectators will be expected to use that facility.

The volunteer(s) in the turnstile booth will be behind protective glass and wear protective gloves where appropriate when handling cash.

Contact details of all spectators will be registered to assist with track and trace,

Regular announcements will be made via the Club Tannoy system relating to maintaining social distance guidelines, obtaining food and coronavirus information.

Spectators when queuing for food when appropriate will maintain social distance guidelines and adhere to the protocol information, which will be posted outside the venue.

The director's room will be closed and no hospitality (drink/food) will be provided until as such time the guidelines on social distancing measures are relaxed.

Regular checks will be made to ensure spectators are conforming to social distance guidelines where practicable.

The main stand will have a priority seating system for elderly and disabled supporters. Social distancing must be maintained and areas where supporters cannot sit will be clearly marked.

The Club will encourage supporters to use the litterbins provided and not dispose of waste by discarding it onto the ground. Volunteers wearing appropriate PPE will empty these litterbins at the end of each game.

All spectators will be asked to leave the ground at the end of a game in an orderly manner maintaining social distancing. Car owners will be asked to allow pedestrians time to clear the ground before they leave to avoid congestion.

4. Safety Briefings

The football manager will conduct a safety briefing with all players and coaching staff prior to the commencement of a league game/cup game or training session.

The safety briefing will be in line with the code of behavior recommended by the Football Association.

All team talks will take place outside the changing areas and generally on the pitch.

5. Club Facility's

Sanitise stations will be provided at prominent locations at the Club. i.e.

- ❖ At entry to the venue
- ❖ In the changing rooms and shower areas
- ❖ At the venue for food
- ❖ Clubhouse
- ❖ Directors room
- ❖ Match Officials Room
- ❖ Other areas at the discretion of the Club

Regular monitoring of stations will be in place to replenish stock if necessary.

All shower and changing room facilities will be thoroughly cleaned prior to and after matches.

Players will be advised where practicable to change and shower at home. If not practicable a Rota system will be in place to allow a limited number of players to use the shower facilities at any one time maintaining social distancing at all times.

All players' strips will be washed using the Clubs facilities immediately after the end of each league game.

Spectator's toilets (when appropriate) will be regularly cleaned and supporters will adopt social distancing measures when using the facilities based on one in and one out.

Signage to be displayed outside the toilets depicting rules for their use.

Hand washing facilities must be available inside the toilets and similarly automatic hand sanitiser will be mounted outside the toilet.

Paper towels only will be used to dry hands and will be disposed of safely after use.

Signage will be in place in these areas in line with FA and government guidelines.

6. Children's attendance at Football Matches

As part of the Clubs safeguarding policy a parent or appropriate adult must accompany all children under the age of 16. On occasions discretion can be used depending upon the age of the young person.

Until further notice written consent from a parent or appropriate adult must be obtained to attend the venue. Written consent will be obtained from the parent/appropriate adult attending with their children at the time of entering the venue.

A pro forma has been produced making parents aware of social distancing measures and what is expected of their children. This form will be available at the turnstiles and can be signed by the parent upon entry.

Signage will be posted outside the venue making parents aware of the requirements and will also be posted on the Clubs web site and other social media platforms.

7. Match Standards and Equipment

Written protocols will be circulated to all coaching staff for briefing of all players together with the code of behavior.

All equipment must be regularly cleaned prior to and after each game or training session.

No more than 30 people in total will be in attendance at training sessions.

All facilities must be thoroughly cleaned after use.

8. Player Welfare

Protocols will be adopted and published in line with FA and government advice for information of all players.

Players being treated on the pitch for match injuries will be in line with the practice guidelines utilised by the Clubs Medical Officer.

A one-way system will be adopted to ensure social distancing is maintained and will be regularly monitored by staff.

Refreshment breaks – players and staff must not share the same drinking facilities and will use their own drinks or drinks supplied to them by the coaching staff.

Players after training or a competitive match should not congregate in large groups. Social distancing measure should still be adhered to.

Technical area protocols will be established for coaching staff and substitutes to ensure social distancing is maintained.

Match official will ensure players from the home and away side enter the pitch one team at a time.

This a dynamic action plan and will be amended as required or as government and FA guidelines deem necessary.

The protocols adopted in relation to the use of the Clubhouse will be part of a separate Action Plan following the risk assessment for the Clubhouse. This will be in line with the Government Guidelines for restaurants, pubs, bars and takeaway services.

John Tough

Club Chairman