



BASC COVID-19 GUIDANCE FOR SIMULATED GAME SHOOTS IN ENGLAND

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Introduction

This guidance document has been produced to assist those managing simulated game shoots to consider and manage the risk posed by Covid-19, and comply with government restrictions on shoot days.

What follows is not an exhaustive list of actions, given that guidance from government on managing the risk of Covid-19 is regularly updated and that all shoots operate differently.

Please remember that all dates referenced in this document are provisional until confirmed by government. Only when the government is sure that it is safe to move from one step to the next in its 'roadmap to recovery' will the final decision be made.

In England, from 29 March, formally organised outdoor sports will be permitted to restart and will not be subject to the gathering limits – but they should be compliant with guidance issued by national governing bodies. BASC is publishing this guidance for its members to follow in order to safely plan and deliver simulated game shoots as a formally organised outdoor sport.

The government define 'organised' sport as 'sport which is formally organised by a qualified instructor, club, national governing body, company or charity and follows sport-specific guidance'. Any shoot that does not meet this criteria cannot be classed as 'organised' in relation to government guidance and is therefore not covered by any exemptions.

The government guidance on organised sport can be read here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-grassroots-sports-guidance-for-the-public-and-sport-providers#organised-sport>

More information and specific guidance about the new Covid-19 response for spring 2021 can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-response-spring-2021/covid-19-response-spring-2021>

The government has outlined five practical actions for businesses to take to manage the risk of Covid-19 in the workplace. These actions can readily be applied to simulated game shoots to help reduce the risk posed by Covid-19.

1. Carry out a Covid-19 risk assessment.
2. Develop cleaning, hand washing and hygiene procedures.
3. Help people work from home.
4. Maintain 2m social distancing.
5. Where people cannot be 2m apart, manage the transmission risk.

Assessing the risk of Covid-19 on simulated game shoot days is important to ensure the safety of all participants. How risk is managed must take into account the legal regulation and government guidance in force on the day of the shoot.

Remember, it is everyone's responsibly to be Covid safe.

How to use this guide

This guidance document is intended to support those managing simulated game shoots to think about the risk posed by Covid-19. The information that follows is intended to help with the identification of risks and mitigation measures while undertaking a risk assessment. It

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cannot be exhaustive; each shoot will need to be considered in the context of its own operations, the law and government guidance in place at the time.

The document includes considerations around Covid-19 prior to a simulated game shoot day, general aspects of Covid-19 transmission risk which will need to be managed on the day, as well as specific areas of risk and how these might be managed.

Considerations prior to the shoot day

Risk assessment

Each individual shoot organiser should undertake their own risk assessment and scenario planning for shoot days. There will likely be differences between shoots, but all risk assessments should include consideration of the key aspects in this framework alongside the usual assessment of health and safety risks.

Specific guidance on completing a risk assessment for your shoot can be found here: <https://basc.org.uk/health-and-safety/>

A risk assessment template from the Health and Safety Executive can be found here: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/simple-health-safety/risk/risk-assessment-template-and-examples.htm>

You can use this guidance to help identify potential Covid-19 risk factors and potential mitigation measures to help reduce the risk, so that you are operating in a 'Covid safe' way.

As with any risk assessment, if you are not confident that the risk can be reduced to an acceptable level, then the activity should not go ahead.

When applying mitigation measures you must refer to and take account of legal regulations and government guidance in force at the time the shoot is to take place. The latest coronavirus regulations can be found at <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Determining who should attend the shoot

Protect those at higher risk from Covid-19. This includes those who may be clinically extremely vulnerable and those in the clinically vulnerable group.

- Carefully assess whether those attending from these groups can do so safely.
- Consider whether you will have sufficient number of support staff to run the day safely and effectively.
- Be aware that those who live with critically vulnerable people may not be able to attend.

Employees

All businesses must have a health and safety policy and carry out risk assessments by law. If you have five or more employees at any one time, it is a legal requirement to have a written health and safety policy in place. Even if the shoot does not have employees, it still makes sense to document and assess potential risks.

In the context of Covid-19 this document should include:

- assessment of vulnerability to Covid-19;
- assessment of physical ability to undertake the tasks required;

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- identification of precautions required to help protect everyone involved on the shoot (such as the hygiene and transportation guidelines detailed within this document).

Those organising a gathering under exemptions from 29 March (date to be confirmed by government) are required to follow guidance issued by their governing body and must, by law, put in place all reasonable measures to limit the risk of transmission of coronavirus. This must take into account the risk assessment carried out and any guidance relevant to the gathering that is issued by government.

The conduct and requirements of each employee should be clearly outlined and agreed before shooting commences – for example, in a letter to those involved in the shoot in advance of their attendance.

A clear safety brief, including risks and actions in response to Covid-19 should be given to employees prior to each shoot.

Travel

You should consider any national and local restrictions on travel that may impact the shoot day. There may be restrictions on distances that can be travelled, and limitations on who can travel together.

The 'stay at home' rule will end on 29 March, but many restrictions will remain in place. People should continue to minimise travel wherever possible and should not be staying away from home overnight at this stage.

Accommodation

Consider any national and local restrictions on accommodation and the hospitality sector and communicate these to visitors, as it may impact their ability to attend the shoot.

From 12 April (at the earliest):

Self-contained accommodation such as campsites and holiday lets, where indoor facilities are not shared with other households, can reopen, subject to following sector specific guidance.

From 17 May (at the earliest):

The rest of the accommodation sector, including hotels and B&Bs will be allowed to open, subject to following sector-specific guidance.

Visitors from abroad

Have a discussion with any visitors from abroad who are due to attend the shoot. There may be quarantine rules for those arriving from overseas which would need to be observed before they can visit the shoot. Currently, if you're travelling to England, you must either quarantine in the place you're staying or in a managed quarantine hotel for ten days. What you need to do depends on where you travel in the ten days before you arrive in England.

Currently, you must also take two coronavirus tests after you arrive in England. You will need to book these before you travel.

Visitors may also need to consider quarantine in their own country when they return home. Refer to government guidance for further information and guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/uk-border-control>

Socialising and gatherings

Government guidance states that participants in outdoor organised sport should adhere to social distancing when not actively participating (e.g. during breaks between activity). Social interaction before and after playing any sport should only take place outdoors, and in separate and distinct groups consisting of up to six people or two households.

From 29 March (at the earliest):

Outdoor gatherings (including in private gardens) of either six people (the rule of six) or two households will also be allowed. People will still be required to socially distance from each other. The rule of six does not change at Step 2 (12 April at the earliest), so will still need to be complied with. Gatherings indoors remain prohibited.

From 17 May (at the earliest):

Under Step 3 of the government roadmap, gathering limits for meeting others outdoors will be increased to 30 people. Indoors, the legal limit for gatherings will be 'rule of six' or 'two households'.

From June 21 (at the earliest):

Under Step 4 of the government roadmap, all remaining legal limits on social contact will be lifted, although guidance on how to limit transmission of coronavirus will be issued.

The limitation on gatherings does not apply to those taking part in 'formally organised outdoor sports' so long as the activity is compliant with guidance issued by a national governing body. The exemption only applies to the organised sport activity being conducted and does not cover any incidental activity such as travel to, from or around the venue, taking of refreshments, lunches, or any other social activity. Those incidental activities will still be required, by law, to comply with the gathering limits in force at the time. Employees are exempt from gathering limits where their gathering is necessary for work purposes.

Further guidance on gatherings related to provision of meals on the shoot can be found in the 'Provision of food and refreshments' section of this document.

Considerations on the day of the shoot

Covid-19

Keeping Covid-19 out of the shoot is the most effective way to minimise the risk of infection.

Anyone with Covid-19, displaying symptoms of Covid-19, or who shares a household with any individual displaying symptoms, or may have been exposed to Covid-19 within 14 days prior to the shoot must not attend and should follow government guidance on self-isolation. Anyone identified by the government test and trace service and told to self-isolate must not attend the shoot.

NHS Test and Trace

Shoots must comply with government guidance to support NHS 'test and trace' efforts. Shoots are not legally required to have the QR system in place unless they run the shoot as a business and within that business, they provide hospitality services. Further information and relevant guidance can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-test-and-trace-workplace-guidance> and <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/maintaining-records-of-staff-customers-and-visitors-to-support-nhs-test-and-trace>

Arrival at the shoot

Congregation of the shoot party, staff or others poses transmission risk for Covid-19. Social distancing measures should be put in place and gathering limits followed in accordance with government guidelines. Measures to reduce risk might include:

- reducing the time between arrival of participants and the start of the shoot day;
- distancing vehicles in car parks;
- asking people to remain in their own vehicles until the shoot briefing;
- putting social distancing markers in communal areas;
- avoiding indoor spaces, unless able to maintain social distancing and compliance with gathering limits;
- using safe outdoor areas while maintaining social distancing;
- increased cleaning of hard surfaces and contact points such as entry gates and door handles;
- where it may be difficult to maintain social distancing outdoors, reduce contact time to less than ten minutes;
- having one person controlling access points to reduce contact by multiple individuals.

As a general measure, you may consider separating the group into smaller bubbles/teams which remain separate from one another. Avoiding mixing of individuals outside of these bubbles reduces the risk of transmission of Covid-19 and potential impacts on future shoots days in the event that an individual involved in the shoot contracts Covid-19.

Shoot briefing

As well as the usual safety briefing, all participants in the shoot day should be informed of the precautions and guidance in place to protect against Covid-19 and agree the responsibilities of all parties prior to the shoot commencing. When conducting the shoot briefing*, you may wish to:

- provide a written briefing prior to the shoot, by email, and have participants acknowledge their responsibilities by return;
- brief participants outdoors where safe to do so, ensuring social distancing is maintained;
- if possible, introduce a one-way system to facilitate access and egress;
- consider alternatives to drawing pegs, such as one individual doing the draw, observed by other Guns.

**If briefings are undertaken indoors you must conform to regulations on gathering limits indoors. You should take steps to ensure that social distancing can be maintained, keep time spent indoors in groups to the minimum required to deliver the safety briefing, and open windows and doors to increase flow of air into the room.*

Transportation

Transport is incidental to the activity and is therefore NOT covered by the exemption from gathering limits. Any travel must comply with legal indoor gathering limits.

Where possible, travel around the shoot should be on foot, as this allows social distancing to be maintained and reduces the risk of Covid-19 transmission.

Shoot organisers should consider the positioning of the drives and shooting area to avoid unnecessary travel in vehicles.

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From 29 March (at the earliest):

Individuals or household groups have to travel in separate vehicles.

From 17 May (at the earliest):

Either six people or two households will be allowed to travel together, so long as social distancing and other mitigation measures to limit virus transmission are in place.

From 21 June (at the earliest):

All legal limits of social contact will be lifted, allowing multiple occupants to travel together. Government guidance on limiting virus transmission should be followed.

Transport should be planned well in advance of the day to ensure appropriate provision is in place. Parking arrangements around the shoot should also be considered, to ensure that multiple vehicles can be accommodated safely and without impacting other countryside users.

Where a vehicle/transport is used for multiple occupants, shoots should refer to the relevant government guidance on travel. If using transport around the shoot, you may consider:

- physical social distancing between passengers;
- sitting side-by-side, not face to face;
- increasing ventilation in the transport;
- using a 'partnering system' with fixed teams always travelling together;
- hand hygiene – using hand washing facilities or hand sanitizer before and after each journey;
- organising drives to minimise travel times, and therefore length of potential exposure to Covid-19;
- cleaning transport between passengers, especially contact points (e.g. doors, handrails) before and after each journey;
- enhanced cleaning of shoot transport before and after each shoot;
- minimizing the touching of surfaces within the transport;
- wearing face coverings in line with government guidance for using public transport in England when travelling with multiple occupants.

Equipment

Sharing equipment on shoot days increases the transmission risk of Covid-19. To reduce the risk, you may consider issuing equipment to individuals which is not shared, ensuring such equipment is cleaned thoroughly before and after use.

Provision of food and refreshments

Many shoots will provide food and refreshments. The provision of food and refreshments is a high-risk area for transmission of Covid-19. Providers must follow hospitality sector guidance for services of food and drinks.

Refreshment breaks may be taken outdoors during the shoot day. During such breaks, all participants must comply with gathering limits in force at the time and maintain social distancing. Appropriate hygiene measures must also be in place.

From 29 March (at the earliest):

Shoot meals (e.g. shoot lunches) do not fall within the exemption for 'formally organised outdoor sports'. You will not be permitted to provide services, such as the serving of food and drink for consumption, on the premises.

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From 12 April (at the earliest):

Under Step 2 of the government roadmap, shooting venues offering hospitality will be able to open for outdoor service. The requirement to order, eat and drink while seated ('table service') will remain, as will the 'rule of six' gathering limit for any individual party. Hospitality sector guidance must be followed by providers.

From 17 May (at the earliest)

Under Step 3 of the government roadmap, shooting venues can provide services, such as the serving of food and drink for consumption on the premises. Indoor hospitality will be permitted. The requirement to order, eat and drink while seated ('table service') will remain, as will the 'rule of six' gathering limit for any individual party. Hospitality sector guidance must be followed by providers.

From 21 June (at the earliest)

Under Step 4 of the government roadmap, shooting venues can offer full hospitality services, as all remaining legal limits on social contact will be lifted. Remaining guidance for the hospitality sector should be followed by providers.

Government guidance relevant to the hospitality sector including legal requirements for providers, can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/restaurants-offering-takeaway-or-delivery>

Further guidance on food hygiene during the Covid-19 pandemic can be found <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-food-businesses/guidance-for-food-businesses-on-coronavirus-covid-19>.

Hand washing and hygiene

Frequent hand washing or hand sanitising are effective ways to reduce the risk of transmission of Covid-19. You should consider ways to improve and increase the frequency of hand washing and sanitising on shoot days. Measures may include:

- advising individuals to bring hand sanitizer with them on shoot days and follow guidance on hand washing;
- providing additional hand washing facilities where practicable;
- providing additional hand sanitising points/hand sanitiser;
- the use of signage to reinforce messaging about frequent hand washing and avoidance of touching surfaces.

Enhanced hygiene practices in communal areas will reduce the risk of transmission of Covid-19 from surfaces. Special attention should be paid to high-use communal areas such as washrooms and toilets.

Use of PPE such as gloves and face coverings may help improve hygiene and reduce transmission. Refer to government advice on use of face coverings.

Increased provision of waste bins may help improve hygiene. Take appropriate precaution when disposing of waste, using of gloves, and washing hands thoroughly after emptying waste bins. For disposal of PPE such as face coverings or waste which may have been contaminated with Covid-19, you should follow relevant government guidelines:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings>.

Informing others

With a rise in public access to rural areas, shoot organisers should consider other land users, such as walkers, who may be present on shoot days. Their presence will increase other risks associated with the shoot day, as well as potentially increasing Covid-19 transmission sources (i.e. gates, bridge handrails and stiles).

Where possible, shoot organisers should consider the positioning of the drives and shooting area to avoid proximity to areas open to the public (i.e. footpaths).

Guidance for shoot operator/staff

In addition to the general guidance for running a safe simulated game shoot day, there are further areas of Covid-19 transmission risk that may need to be considered.

Gun teams

If the shoot is operating a multiple team event, you should consider effective ways to reduce the risk of transmission of Covid-19.

- Maintain social distancing on the stands.
- Consider separating the group into smaller bubbles/teams which remain separate from one another throughout the day. Avoiding mixing of individuals outside of these teams reduces the risk of transmission of Covid-19 and potential impacts on future shoots days in the event that an individual involved in the shoot contracts Covid-19.
- Increase hand hygiene – using hand washing facilities or hand sanitizer before and after each stand/drive.
- Consider waiting points for the next team of Guns and how to safely move between pegs and maintain social distancing.

Scoring

If scoring is carried out, you may wish to consider how this can be done while reducing potential for contact transmission of Covid-19. Measures may include:

- ensuring a member of staff stays with each team and scores throughout the day. At no point will shooters touch a score card. Only the staff members have contact with the score card.
- placing scorecards in a sealable plastic folder after the team has shot each drive and nominating one squad member to carry the scorecards throughout the day. Guns should not touch the score cards.
- ensuring staff handling scorecards or the plastic folder are wearing disposable gloves, which are changed frequently. At the end of the drive the plastic folder should be sanitised.

Operating traps

It is important when operating, maintaining, or refilling clay traps to consider ways you might reduce potential for contact transmission of Covid-19. Measures may include:

- only having staff members operate, maintain, or refill clay traps – and minimising the number of people/staff making contact with traps;
- enhancing cleaning regimes for surfaces and equipment, including clay trap buttons;
- ensuring all staff adhere to social distancing while maintaining or filling clay traps;
- providing additional hand washing facilities where practicable for staff;

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- providing additional hand sanitising points/hand sanitiser for staff;
- providing appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for all staff.

Guidance for Guns/the shoot party

In addition to the general guidance for pre-shoot information, arrival at the shoot and transport, there are further areas of Covid-19 transmission risk which may need to be considered for a team of Guns/shoot party.

Cartridges

If the shoot supplies cartridges for guns, then you may wish to consider how this can be done while reducing potential for contact transmission of Covid-19. Measures may include:

- one individual handling cartridges, ensuring appropriate hand washing measures and using PPE if appropriate;
- providing cartridges at a safe, centralised location, supervised by the provider, and ensuring that those collecting them maintain social distancing.

Empty cases can also be a Covid-19 transmission risk. To reduce this risk, you may wish to consider:

- asking Guns to collect their own empty cases with disposal points on each drive;
- one person collecting empty cases at the end of each drive, using appropriate PPE such as nitrile gloves, ensuring thorough hand washing or sanitising before and after collecting;
- liaising with your local disposal or recycling agent and following the Covid-secure guidelines they may have for disposal of accumulated cartridge cases.

Loading

Loading, whether for single gun or double guns, requires individuals to operate within 1m of one another. Unless the loader is from the same household, this breaches guidance on social distancing. As such, loading should only take place when close contact services are legally allowed to resume (12 April, at the earliest), if absolutely necessary and following the government guidance for 'close contact' services: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/close-contact-services>

Individual shoots should also consider any additional implications for health and safety from following this guidance.

Loading for double guns poses a higher risk of transmission of coronavirus than single gun loading, due to the constant handling and transfer of guns between individuals. Appropriate cleaning and sanitising precautions should be in place for all shared equipment in line with government guidance. Any cleaning products should be appropriate/safe for their intended purpose.

Those chaperoning novice Guns for safety should also follow government guidance for 'close contact services', again taking into account any further health and safety risks arising from following this guidance. It may be necessary to exclude novice shooters where appropriate close supervision is not possible.

Payments

You should consider the transmission risk associated with handling cash or cheques in relations to payments for shooting. Electronic payment is the lowest risk option for payments and should be used where practicable. Where physical payments are made, enhanced

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hygiene processes should be considered as well as measures to ensure social distancing requirements are met.

Further information

If you require further information or support, please contact your local BASC office.

Resources

The following resources may be useful in preparing to address the risk of Covid-19 on the shoot:

- BASC Coronavirus Guidance

<https://basc.org.uk/coronavirus/>

- Code of Good Shooting Practice

<http://www.codeofgoodshootingpractice.org.uk/>

- Government Covid-19 information and guidance

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/construction-and-other-outdoor-work>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-guidance-for-mass-gatherings>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-meeting-with-others-safely-social-distancing>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/close-contact-services>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-food-businesses>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/restaurants-offering-takeaway-or-delivery>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-test-and-trace-how-it-works>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own>

- Health & Safety Executive – Covid-19 Guidance:

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/news/coronavirus.htm>

- DEFRA Covid-19 Information

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<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-on-accessing-green-spaces-safely>