

Cambridge Gliding Centre Bio-Security Protocols

Introduction

The advent of the COVID 19 Crisis has imposed on the club and its members significant changes in the way we interact at the Gliding Club. In order to ensure basic levels of bio-security it is vital that all members and visitors adopt the following policies until further notice.

The adoption of these policies does not however absolve individual members from taking personal responsibility for their own safety and bio-security.

General COVID-19 policy

Government Social Distancing Regulations shall be in force at all times when on the airfield. The 2 metre separation rule is a fundamental element of this policy and members should remember to adhere to it unless safety factors dictate otherwise.

Face coverings should be worn by club members and visitors when in all club buildings. People should only enter the office or club house buildings for short periods sufficient to accomplish specific tasks and should not gather within.

Frequent hand washing is strongly advised and club toilets, including the shower block, are all equipped to provide this with soap and paper towels. Wash hands frequently and before leaving the club.

An NHS app QR code plaque is located at reception in the office. Please use it.

First Aid / Emergencies

In the event someone needs urgent first aid or there is an emergency on the airfield, this takes priority. Bio-security measures should be restored as soon as practicable.

COVID-19 Security Questionnaire

If you answer "yes" to any of the questions below then you must not go to the Gliding Club, and if on site, must leave immediately:

- Have you been diagnosed with COVID-19 at any time during the last 14 days?
- Have you had COVID-19 symptoms (fever, newly-developed cough, loss of taste or smell, shortness of breath) at any time during the last 8 days?
- Within the last 14 days, have you been in close contact with someone known to have had COVID-19 at that time, or who developed COVID-19 symptoms between 2 days before and 10 days after your contact ("Close contact" means face-to-face contact within 1 metre for more than 15 minutes, or direct physical contact).
- Are you currently required by local or national regulations to be in quarantine for reasons related to COVID-19?

Face Coverings

Face coverings are recommended to be worn by all individuals on aircraft, where social distancing is not possible, where it is safe to do so.

Government rules are that passengers must wear a face covering on introductory flights. Please note that for safety reasons your instructor may not be wearing a face covering.

Face coverings should be used when working in close proximity with another person.

A supply of face coverings is available from the office

Hand Cleanser

Alcohol-based anti-viral hand wash is available in all club buildings and vehicles. It should be used prior to using vehicles or entering the club house and office.

Members and visitors are encouraged to carry a small bottle of hand cleanser so they can clean their hands frequently and after touching surfaces.

Weather

In the event of inclement weather members should find individual shelter in their own vehicles or under outdoor cover. However, the 2 metre rule must still be applied.

There is limited shade on the airfield; members should ensure they have adequate sun-protection.

The bus is primarily to be used for the protection of club equipment such as parachutes. Not more than three people are allowed in the bus at any one time, face coverings must be worn, and social distancing should be maintained.

Food and Drink

The kitchen is closed and there will be no food and drink routinely at the club. Please bring sufficient food and drink for your stay at the club.

Introductory Flights

Visitors must report to the office on arrival and fill in the visitor book.

All introductory flight passengers **MUST** read and sign the COVID-19 security questionnaire.

In order to help us maintain social distancing, people coming for an introductory flight may only bring one other non-flying visitor with them on site.

Prior to flying you will have your temperature checked using an infrared forehead thermometer. If you have a temperature of 37.8 °C or above, you will not be able to fly and will be asked to return home immediately.

Government rules are that passengers must wear a face covering on introductory flights. Please note that for safety reasons your instructor may not be wearing a face covering.

If you already have a voucher, please contact the office at 01767 677077 to book your flight.

Flight vouchers can be bought online or by contacting the office.

Club Keys

Clean keys with a wipe or disinfectant spray when collecting from the cupboard and again when returning.

Mintel Simulator

The simulator controls and the touchpoints of the instructor station should be wiped down with the supplied ant-viral wipes prior to use and after use.

The Trainee should be responsible for the cockpit area and all touched controls, buckles and harnesses.

The instructor should be responsible for the instructor station in the simulator control room (Heather suite).

During use a free flow of air through the simulator room may be encouraged by opening the rear door and the small window behind screen 5. The main simulator entrance door may also be left open.

There should not be more than one person (the instructor) in the control room (Heather suite) at any time.

Use of Club Vehicles

- Hiluxes
- Buggies
- Aerotow Trailer
- Tractors
- Bus

Each club vehicle should have a supply of disinfectant spray, anti-viral wipes and rubbish bags.

If allocated a club vehicle to use, the individual member is responsible for cleaning the “touchpoints” of the vehicle prior to use AND after use.

- Outside and inside door handles
- Steering wheel
- Key
- Gear levers
- Radio
- Window handles
- Any other obvious touch points e.g. tow bar handle

The number of users of each club vehicle MUST be kept to a minimum. If a change of user is required, the previous user MUST wipe down “touchpoints” in the vehicle before handing it over to the next user, who will then repeat the process.

Windows on vehicles should be open as much as possible to maximize airflow.

Passengers should not be carried within club vehicles.

Winch

The winch should have a supply of disinfectant spray, anti-viral wipes and rubbish bags.

Generally, the winch activity can maintain the required separation so no face protection is mandated. Nothing should prevent anyone using face protection if they feel the need.

In any winch failure situation at the winch where social distance is compromised, all people involved MUST wear some face protection – face masks are kept in the winch.

Winch Drivers are encouraged to wear disposable gloves, though this is not mandatory. Gloves isolate the Winch Driver from the world and vice-versa. Wipe down the gloves periodically to remove any externally-acquired contamination.

Any change in gloves should be put straight into the Winch Driver's personal rubbish bag which they take with them through the shift. Winch Drivers are advised to carry hand-gel or a bottle of washing water & soap for use at the winch.

Clean the listed touchpoints prior to use and at the end of the duty. Clean again if handing over the winch to another driver or if assistance has been required to resolve a problem:

- Internal and external door handles
- Winch controls
- Radio
- Access door handles and/or locks
- Sign
- Chocks

Club Gliders

Each club glider will have a supply of anti-viral wipes. They should be stored securely such that they may not become dislodged during flight and disrupt aircraft controls. This is particularly important for club two-seaters flown solo.

The pilot conducting the DI should wipe down all touch points with anti-viral wipes as part of the DI.

Prior to flight the pilot should wipe down all touchpoints. This should include:

- All controls
- Instrument panel
- Harnesses and buckles
- Canopy controls
- DV panel and air vents

Club gliders with boom mics should have the microphone covered with fresh clingfilm prior to each pilot's use. After use the cling film should be removed by the pilot and disposed of safely.

Cling film is available in the glider or may be obtained from the office.

After flight the previous pilot should repeat the above cleaning procedure before handing the glider over to the next pilot or returning the glider to the hangar.

Club Radios

Club handheld radios are colour-coded to clearly identify them.

If allocated a club radio to use, the user should first clean it using a spray mist of disinfectant and wipes. The radio should remain with the allocated user until handover or the end of flying. On handover the radio should be cleaned by the previous user before handover and cleaned again by the new user. At the completion of the day the last user should clean the radio before replacing it on charge.

Parachutes

If members have access to their own parachute we would encourage its use in club gliders.

Chemical cleaning of parachutes is not recommended and should not be carried out on club parachutes, apart from the buckles. When using a club parachute clean your hands with gel after putting on or taking off a parachute.

Handling of Aircraft

It is not possible to ensure that all areas of an aircraft have not been touched by another member.

Gloves may provide an additional level of protection; however they will only provide the wearer with limited protection, and only if used in a very disciplined fashion.

Members should remain 2 metres apart when pushing or manoeuvring a club glider.

The best advice is to routinely wash hands after touching surfaces, and to avoid touching one's face. At the launch point frequent use of hand cleanser may be required. Hand cleanser is available in the club vehicles and buildings.

Launch Log Keeping

The launch point log should be kept by the launch marshal. The launch marshal may prefer to provide their own pen rather than use the club one supplied.

Bio-Security Supplies

If any supplies around the club or in vehicles and gliders require replenishing, further stocks are available in the club office. They will be reordered as required by the club.

Whilst Cambridge Gliding Centre is following government guidelines and is making every effort to reduce transmission of Coronavirus on site, members and visitors will need to decide whether or not to come out and fly with us based upon their individual circumstances and risk profile