



# UEFA Return to Play Protocol v3

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## 1. Preamble

This protocol (hereinafter: the UEFA Protocol) sets out the framework of medical, sanitary and hygiene procedures together with the operational protocols that are to be applied when staging UEFA competition matches. The evolution of the COVID-19 situation is dynamic and unpredictable, both in terms of its epidemiology and the nature of the countermeasures imposed by national governments, and while it is impossible to establish a completely risk-free environment, the aim is to lower the risk as far as possible by applying current medical advice and best practices.

The UEFA Protocol has been written with the support of Prof Dr Tim Meyer (GER) (UEFA Medical Committee Chairman), Dr Zoran Bahtijarević (CRO) (UEFA Medical Committee third vice-chairman), and with additional support of an *ad hoc* medical expert group composed of Dr Charlotte Cowie (ENG), Dr Edwin Goedhart (NED), Dr Niko Mihic (ESP) and Dr Piotr Zmijewski (POL).

Minimising the risk to UEFA competitions from COVID-19 relies on thorough and robust preparations and on-site organisation, but also to a large extent on the cooperation, behaviour and understanding of the teams, their players, officials and technical staff, as well as the UEFA referees, the UEFA venue staff and all target groups involved in the matches. UEFA expects all parties to adhere to hygiene best practices both in the controlled match environments, as well as in their private day to day lives. It is therefore imperative that all precautions set out in this document, as well as the standard hygiene best practices, will be strictly adhered to by all members of these various groups. Non-respect of such social norms could have serious consequences for the staging of international matches.

Players and everyone else involved should remember that their actions, and adherence to the social distancing requirements in particular, not only guarantee a safe environment at UEFA Matches but also serve as a strong symbol for the millions of viewers around the world. Football stakeholders have a collective duty to show leadership and set an example in the rigorous application of these measures.

The UEFA Protocol expressly does not contain any matters related to the medical or operational requirements for a return to training by teams. It falls within the competence of domestic football bodies, national associations and leagues, in coordination with the relevant competent national/local authorities, to determine the conditions that must be met to allow players and staff to return to their training grounds to prepare for upcoming matches.

Finally, it is established as an absolute and unalienable principle of this protocol that the staging of any UEFA Match must not have a detrimental impact on SARS-CoV-2 RNA testing, treatment and prevention resources available to the general population of that association.

## 2. Objectives

The aim of this document is to set out a single medical and operational protocol applicable to competitive football matches of UEFA senior club and national teams for men and women as well as mens U21 matches and centralised A-national team friendlies (UEFA Matches).

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Changes to the overall situation and the regulatory conditions will require us to regularly revise and adapt this protocol over the coming months. The UEFA Protocol is subject to legal provisions and other orders issued by the relevant competent national/local authorities in the various countries. We expect each association to inform us as soon as possible if any existing or new legislation is likely to have an impact on how this protocol is applied.

The UEFA Protocol sets out the procedures necessary for organising all UEFA Matches, focusing on matters such as the testing regime, team and official travel and hotel planning and the stadium operations. In this respect, the UEFA Protocol comprises a set of mandatory obligations for all teams taking part in UEFA matches.

This means creating a protected and contained environment for team players and technical staff to provide them with a separated 'bubble' corridor for all movements into, within and out of the stadium, and establish best practice principles for the protection and safety of all working staff involved in delivering the match and/or present at the stadium during the organisation of the match. The aim of the concept is to minimise the amount of contact between the different groups involved in the match or present at the stadium to reduce the possibility of any cross-contagion, and therefore to limit the number of people that need to be tested and the frequency of this testing.

### 3. Scope of application

The UEFA Protocol includes medical and operational obligations for all parties taking part in and/or organising UEFA Matches. These obligations must be applied by match organisers (who are also responsible for ensuring that the stadium operator applies them) when preparing venues, subject to any additional measures imposed by the relevant competent national/local authorities from country to country. With the exception of matches for which UEFA is the designated match organiser, the responsibility for implementing the requirements and guidelines set out in this Protocol lies with the match organiser.

The UEFA Protocol applies to the UEFA Matches set out under Objectives until further notice, in conjunction with the applicable relevant competent national/local authority legislation and requirements.

The UEFA administration is entrusted with the operational management of the Protocol and is, therefore, entitled to take decisions and adopt detailed operational provisions and guidelines for the implementation of the Protocol in particular in view of the different competitions to be organised as well as to amend it accordingly in view of the COVID-19 development and the constantly changing national conditions.

Non-compliance with the obligations set out in the UEFA Protocol may lead to disciplinary measures in accordance with the *UEFA Disciplinary Regulations*.

The annexes form an integral part of this Protocol.

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## 4. Admission of Spectators

Spectators are permitted to attend UEFA Matches, in countries where this is permitted by the relevant competent national/local authorities. The maximum permitted capacity is determined by the UEFA Executive Committee, but the total number people permitted to be in the stadium at any time is subject to any restrictions that may be imposed by the relevant competent national/local authorities. If this limit includes match participants and working staff as well as spectators, then priority must always be given to teams, officials and working staff. The requirements of the *UEFA Minimum Health & Hygiene Requirements for the Return of Spectators* apply to all matches played with spectators.

The total number of team personnel, officials and working staff permitted to be on the entire stadium premises at one time may be limited depending on several factors:

- a) Any national/local authority restrictions or limits applied to the event
- b) The size of the stadium (affects stewarding and technical staff members in particular)
- c) The scale of the broadcast operation
- d) The space available to media

The staffing level must be adapted to stadium layout and competition needs. In all cases, the number of staff required to operate the stadium, organise the match and deliver the commercial and broadcast obligations must be limited to an absolute minimum.

## 5. Roles and responsibilities

To ensure that the UEFA Protocol is properly implemented, all medical requirements are fulfilled and that the operational principles of the protocol are appropriately reviewed, each team taking part in a UEFA Match must take the following measures:

- Each team must appoint a **Medical Liaison Officer (MLO)** who is responsible for ensuring that all the medical testing requirements in this protocol are fulfilled, for liaising with the Testing Service Provider in charge of testing, as well as for receiving all SARS-CoV-2 RNA test results and sharing the list of individuals negative results with UEFA. The MLO must be someone with appropriate medical competence, preferably the team doctor (but not necessarily the case). The MLO must be someone of sufficient standing within the team to ensure that all persons to be tested are present at the relevant scheduled time and must also organise appropriate testing facilities for each organised test. The MLO must travel with the team and must be tested as part of the team delegation.
- Each team must appoint a **Protocol Compliance Officer (PCO)** who is responsible for ensuring the travel, accommodation and general hygiene and social distancing measures are respected at all times. The PCO must ensure contracts with hotels and airline companies include best practice guidelines and that the measures of the UEFA Protocol are strictly implemented. The PCO must travel with the team and must be tested as part of the team delegation.
- Each host team (or the match organiser if a UEFA Match is played in a neutral stadium or country) must appoint an English-speaking **Hygiene Officer (HO)** with detailed functional knowledge of the stadium and its operations, whose sole responsibility is to review the operational principles of the UEFA Protocol with the relevant competent national/local authorities, to then ensure that all the principles and appropriate hygiene measures set out



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here are correctly implemented at the venue. The HO must have a good understanding of the local epidemiological situation and local measures in place. The HO is further responsible for implementing a protocol for entry to the stadium and its controlled area that ensures that everyone entering the stadium has their health and temperature checked daily and, if required by the relevant competent national/local authorities, has completed an epidemiological acknowledgment form. The HO must work closely with and report to the UEFA Match Delegate during the delegate's time on-site. The HO must be tested by the match organiser and must be one of the operational staff accredited to access Zone 1 (see section 14.4).

- The **UEFA Match Delegate (UMD)** is, amongst other tasks, responsible overall for checking that the UEFA Protocol and hygiene measures are implemented at the venue, and must review all entry procedures, the zoning concept and access protection at the stadium including the team and officials temperature checks and negative test certificate controls. The UMD reports to UEFA on any failure to implement the protocol, as well as on any breaches of the operational measures, to ensure the optimum protection of all stakeholders at the venue. The UMD will be tested as part of the UEFA testing programme.
- The **UEFA Protocol Advisory Panel (UPAP)** advises UEFA on any medical questions related to SARS-CoV-2 RNA testing. The UPAP may at the request of the teams provide consultation or advice to a team MLO and/or team doctor on questions related to test results, as well as on additional alternative testing practices for players previously affected by the virus, however this is only advisory in nature and any decisions can only be taken by the relevant competent national/local authorities. The UPAP is composed of virologists, laboratory experts and medical doctors, all experienced in the management of COVID-19.
- The **UEFA Protocol Monitoring Officer (UPMO)**, when appointed, is responsible for assisting and supporting the UMD in observing the application of the UEFA Protocol and complementing the reporting of the UMD on any shortcomings in this implementation. The UPMO will be tested as part of the UEFA testing programme.



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## UEFA PROTOCOL: MEDICAL PRINCIPLES

### 6. Social distancing and hygiene principles

In general, social distancing is considered the most effective way to minimise the risk of transmitting the disease together with hygiene best practices such as regular handwashing. At all matches, a **1.5m** social distance (measured shoulder-to-shoulder) must be respected at all times, and in no case less than the guidance recommended by the local government. Strict distancing measures must be applied between the teams and officials as well as all other groups of persons involved at the stadium.

### 7. Testing

It is recognised that social distancing or other infection preventative measures may not be possible in all circumstances, not least between the opposing team players during a match as well as between a team's players and technical staff. For this reason, UEFA will implement a rigorous testing programme to increase security and confidence for everyone involved in a UEFA Match.

#### 7.1. Type and definition

To ensure the highest testing quality, the target groups as outlined under section 7.3 will be subject to SARS-CoV-2 RNA tests conducted by analysing swabs of an individual's nasopharyngeal and/or oropharyngeal (throat) cavities for SARS-CoV-2 nucleic acids, using a PCR (polymerase chain reaction)-based test or equivalent clinically validated test based on nucleic acid amplification technology (SARS-CoV-2 RNA Test). A SARS-CoV-2 RNA Test is defined as positive on detection of particles of viral RNA (genes) at the threshold defined in the manufacturer's instruction of the particular test cleared by UEFA. A test with at least two target genes must be used. At least two targets must yield positive signals for a sample to be determined to be positive.

#### 7.2. Sample collection and laboratory diagnostics service provider

UEFA will appoint a sample collection and laboratory diagnostics service provider (hereinafter "Testing Service Provider" (TSP)) as the entity in charge of sampling and testing for all UEFA Matches. The relevant target groups must comply at all times with the instructions of UEFA and/or the TSP in relation to the implementation of efficient procedures related to the sample collection or testing.

#### 7.3. Identified target groups

The following two identified target groups will be subject to the UEFA testing programme:

##### **Group 1:**

- **Teams:** All players potentially participating in a UEFA Match together with the technical and operational staff such as coaches, assistants, physios, doctors, main contacts, press officers and match managers.

##### **Group 2:**

- **Referees:** The referee, assistant referees and fourth official as well as VAR and Assistant VAR when appointed

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- **UEFA match officers (when appointed):** UMD, Referee Observer, Security Officer, Doping Control Officer, Venue Director and Media Officer
  - **UEFA venue team members (when appointed):** Venue Operations and Broadcast Manager, Venue Media Manager and Venue Services and Sponsorship Manager

A third group providing local support to the match delivery has also been identified. Any person appointed to a role in this category must provide and carry with them at all times onsite a certification from an accredited test institute confirming a negative result from a SARS-CoV-2 RNA test carried out not earlier than MD-3. For single matches, this group will not be included in the UEFA testing programme unless directly appointed by UEFA, however UEFA may at any time request to be provided with a copy of the aforementioned certification. For UEFA-organised event matches (e.g. final tournaments or single match finals) UEFA may also organise testing for participants from Group 3.

### **Group 3:**

- **Local support:** relevant local liaison and support staff (e.g. referee liaison officer, delegate liaison, doping control chaperones, team liaison officers etc)
- **Pitchside medical team:** Pitchside emergency doctor and stretcher teams (4-8 stretcher bearers). This target group may already have been tested by the national health authorities.
- **Broadcast staff:** Host broadcast (HB) staff operating in Zone 1 on MD-1 and MD
- **Supplier staff:** UEFA partners and suppliers operating in Zone 1 or with close contact to tested members of Group 1 or 2 (e.g. VAR Operators)

## **7.4. Pre-competition screening**

To reduce the risk of positive SARS-CoV-2 RNA tests immediately before competition matches, all members of Group 1 and Group 2 that are not at that time undergoing a domestic SARS-CoV-2 RNA testing regime are strongly encouraged to undergo at least one round of pre-screening SARS-CoV-2 RNA testing between MD-14 and MD-10 prior to their first match in the relevant competition. Such testing must be organised by each team with an accredited testing institute.

UEFA may from time to time organise pre-screening SARS-CoV-2 RNA testing for some Group 2 match participants.

## **7.5. Single match testing schedule**

The various groups will be tested for individual matches according to the following standard schedule:

### **7.5.1. Group 1:**

Teams will be subject to testing before each match in the relevant competition. The team MLO is responsible for booking the test for the whole team delegation and must make contact with the Synlab Contact Manager in the country where the test will take place, at least seven days before the requested sampling date.

- **Visiting team:** sample collection and testing will take place with the TSP before leaving their home country. The sample collection will take place on MD-3 or MD-2 according to the time required to organise the sample collection logistics, testing and deliver results in the country in question – a list of the turn-around times (time to deliver results from the end of sampling) by country will be produced to be shared with all teams. The sample collection must be organised to allow the results of this test to be delivered to

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the MLO prior to the departure of the team to the match location so as to ensure that the MLO removes any persons who tested positive from the delegation that will travel. Teams and tested persons shall ensure that UEFA is granted access to the individualised negative test results in a timely manner for purposes of the UMD being able to cross-check venue access processes. If the team travel plans and/or turn-around time requires the pre-departure test to take place before MD-3, this pre-departure test must still be organised with the TSP. An additional test will then be required, which must take place not earlier than MD-3.

An additional test will be necessary on arrival in the host city or on MD-1, if required by the relevant competent national/local authorities. If such a test is required it should, where possible, be carried out by the UEFA TSP. When an arrival or MD-1 test is required by the relevant competent national/local authorities, the visiting team must arrive onsite by 12:00 midday local time at the latest, and must arrange a sampling time that will allow results to be delivered at the latest 6 (six) hours prior to kick-off time (local time) on the day of the match.

- **Home team:** sample collection and testing will take place with the TSP on MD-2 or MD-1 only, depending on the time required to organise the sample collection logistics, testing and deliver results in the country in question (a list of the testing deadline by country will be produced to be shared with all teams). Teams must arrange a sampling time with the TSP that will allow results to be delivered at the latest 6 (six) hours prior to kick-off time (local time) on the day of the match. Teams and tested persons shall ensure that UEFA is granted access to the individualised negative test results in a timely manner for purposes of the UMD being able to cross-check venue access processes.

#### 7.5.2. Group 2:

Sample collection and testing for Group 2 will take place in the home country of the person in question. In principle the person will be required to go to a local sampling location of the TSP on the agreed day and time. In cases of proven difficulties, UEFA may exceptionally allow members of this group to use other testing providers. The test for venue team members must take place on MD-3, while for all other groups (referees, delegates etc), testing will take place on MD-3 or MD-2 depending on the time required to organise the sample collection logistics, testing and deliver results in the country in question (a list of the sampling deadline by country will be produced to be shared with relevant match participants). In principle results will be delivered prior to the departure of the person in question to the match venue. Anyone involved in MD-1 activities at the stadium, or interacting with tested members of Group 1 on MD-1 must plan their sampling time to receive their results before the MD-1 activities start, but in no case may testing be earlier than MD-3.

An additional test will be necessary on MD-1 if required by the relevant competent national/local authorities in the match venue. In this case, a sampling time must be arranged that allows results to be delivered at the latest 6 (six) hours prior to kick-off time (local time) on the day of the match.

#### 7.5.3. Group 3:

Sample collection and testing for Group 3 will, in most cases, take place in the match venue country and must take place on MD-3 at the earliest. Tests must be arranged by the organisation responsible for appointing the person in question (for example, the National Association must organise a test for the referee liaison officer no earlier than MD-3). Group

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3 participants must have a certificate from an accredited test institute confirming a negative SARS-CoV-2 RNA test result for presentation upon arrival at the stadium for their relevant activities on MD-1 and MD, or before their first interaction with tested persons from Group 1 or 2.

The HB is responsible for testing of camera operators and assistants working in Zone 1. Testing must take place on MD-3 or MD-2 to ensure these persons have received their results in time to participate in the MD-1 media activities.

## 7.6. Tournament testing

In tournament format competition matches, testing for Groups 1, 2 and 3 will take place according to the following schedule:

- All participants will be tested on MD-3 or MD-2 before leaving their home country (or home city if travelling within the same country), with sample collection taking place according to the time required to organise the sample collection logistics, testing and deliver the results in the country in question (a list of sampling deadline by country will be produced to be shared with all participants). In principle the test results will be delivered before the team leaves for the host city.
- Group 1 and referee teams from Group 2 will be tested again in the host country with sample collection taking place on MD-1 before their first match in the competition. Results will in principle be delivered at the latest 6 (six) hours prior to kick-off time (local time) on the day of the match.
- All other Group 2 working staff will be tested with sample collection taking place on MD-2 of the first match to allow results to be delivered before going to the stadium on MD-1
- Group 3 working staff will be tested in time to allow results to be delivered ahead of their first interaction with the tested members of Groups 1 and 2 (e.g. TLOs and RLOs to be tested in time to receive results before teams and referees arrive onsite, VAR operators to be tested in time to receive results before the first MD-1 VAR setup tests)
- The testing process for Group 1 and referees will then be repeated the day before each subsequent match in the tournament, unless otherwise defined in the specific tournament implementation plan.
- All other members of Group 2 and all members of Group 3 will be re-tested on a regular basis as required by their stadium attendance and operational functions.

## 7.7. Management of test results

In view of the current pandemic circumstances, to safeguard the health of all persons involved in UEFA competition matches and the general public, only those in Group 1, 2 and 3 that have tested negative may be entitled to travel to or take part in the relevant UEFA match. Teams will be required to provide confirmation of a negative SARS-CoV-2 RNA test result – issued by the TSP for each person concerned – accompanied by a photo ID, on arrival at the stadium on matchday in order to be granted access to the venue (any person who has been exempted from the SARS-CoV-2 RNA testing requirement by the relevant competent national/local authorities must instead produce a written confirmation of their exemption from the relevant aforementioned authorities). Any person from these Groups not in possession of such a confirmation will not be allowed to enter the stadium which includes persons whose results are *'inconclusive'*. Depending on the applicable local legislation/regulations, a negative test result or confirmation from the relevant competent national/local authorities of exemption from testing may be required to enter the country where the match takes place. In such

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circumstances, team MLOs must download and print the negative test certificates or applicable exemptions for each member of the travelling delegation, as well as, if existing, any related UPAP recommendations that have been provided.

Teams and tested persons shall ensure that UEFA is granted access to the individualised negative test results in a timely manner for purposes of the UMD being able to cross-check venue access processes.

If someone in Group 1 tests positive, the TSP will immediately inform the relevant competent national/local authorities as required. The TSP will also inform the team's MLO, who must be aware of any obligations required by the relevant competent national/local authorities that need to be followed either by the team or the person in question. Teams must ensure that no person testing positive can travel to the match venue or take part in the match. Test results are not subject to challenge.

In the event of a positive test result, teams may be asked to produce the results of their contact tracing programme (see section 8 below) and evidence of any social distancing regimes that have been implemented within the team. Failure to produce evidence of a proper contact tracing programme and best practice distancing behaviours may prevent mitigation or minimisation of the impact of a positive result on the team group.

The members of the team delegation shall only be tested once ahead of their UEFA competition match as per the testing schedule stipulated under sections 7.5 and 7.6. of the Protocol (except in cases where a mandatory SARS-CoV-2 RNA test is required in the country where the respective match takes place, or if the travel schedule/turn-around time requires a team to do a pre-departure test ahead of MD-3, and therefore a second test is required for the match). In principle, positive tested individuals may not be retested and therefore cannot participate in the match following the delivery of a positive COVID-19 test result.

However, individuals may be retested in the following circumstances:

- (i) If the test result of the relevant member of the team delegation is declared as '*inconclusive*' by the TSP; and/or
- (ii) If an additional test was ordered by the relevant competent national/local authority, for instance to retest:
  - one or more positive or "*presumed positive*" tested individuals;
  - individuals who initially returned a negative COVID-19 test result but who were isolated/quarantined as part of the contact tracing procedure of the relevant competent national/local authority;
  - individuals for any other reasons as deemed necessary by the relevant competent local/national authorities.

In both circumstances (i) and (ii), the team is required to immediately inform UEFA of such additional testing. Furthermore, whenever a new test is ordered by the relevant competent local/national authority, the team must provide UEFA with written confirmation of the request. Unless decided otherwise by the relevant competent national/local authority, the additional test(s) must always be conducted by the TSP.

A '*presumed positive*' result is treated as a positive result and any instructions from the relevant competent national/local authorities must be followed.

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If any person from Group 1 is notified of an *'inconclusive'* test result, it is recommended to isolate the person in question from the rest of the team delegation until a conclusive result is delivered.

If anyone in Group 2 tests positive, the TSP shall immediately inform the concerned person and the relevant competent national/local authorities as required. The concerned person shall inform UEFA in order to expedite an efficient replacement of the person in question at the match, as well as to allow UEFA to provide any relevant support or assistance.

If anyone in Group 3 tests positive, they must follow the requirements set out by the relevant competent national/local authorities where the test took place.

If any person from Group 2 or Group 3 is notified of an *'inconclusive'* test result, that person must not go to the venue or interact with other persons working at the match until a conclusive result has been delivered.

### 7.8. Previous confirmed cases

It is currently recognised that those who have recovered from COVID-19 may still be at risk of delivering positive SARS-CoV-2 RNA test results, despite having no contagion risk nor virus symptoms. Participants from Group 1 or Group 2 who have verified confirmation that they have now recovered from the virus are invited to submit documentation of this to the UPAP, including the date of diagnosis of the virus, complete relevant medical history and any other medical documents in this context e.g. SARS-CoV-2 RNA test or any other laboratory tests. This must be provided at least one week before the team's next UEFA sampling. This information will then be analysed by the UPAP which may provide recommendations for the affected person to be exempted from further SARS-CoV-2 RNA testing or for other possible steps to be taken.

In order to submit a request for a UPAP recommendation, teams are required to contact [covid19testing@uefa.ch](mailto:covid19testing@uefa.ch) with a completed Illness Record Form (see Annex B) to receive further instructions on the information to be provided for the relevant case. Unless all relevant necessary documentation is submitted, the UPAP will not be able to provide a recommendation.

Any such UPAP recommendations are strictly advisory and it is the responsibility of the team to liaise with the relevant competent national/local authorities to obtain a final decision on the recommendation provided by the UPAP to the team (potentially both in the team's home country and in the country of the match venue).

## 8. Contact tracing programme & best practices

In order to minimise the impact of a positive test from a player or member of staff, every team must implement a rigorous contact tracing programme for the members of its testing pool. This programme must keep careful note of interactions between persons in the group such as when seated on planes/buses, mealtimes, keeping track of training interactions, any medical care interactions and social exchanges.



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In order to be able to demonstrate a low risk of potential transmission, some examples of best practice behaviours that can be implemented include:

- During travel
  - o Maintaining social distancing on all bus and plane trips (one person per two seats)
  - o Using two team buses instead of one
  - o Keeping set seats on all bus trips
  - o Taking photos of seating plans on buses/planes to detail interactions
  - o Wearing masks during all travel
- During hotel stays, team meetings etc
  - o Maintaining social distancing at any indoor gatherings of the team
  - o All team members wearing masks at any indoor gatherings except meals
  - o Keeping track of seating plans and interactions at team meetings and meals
- During training sessions
  - o Keeping track of training groups
  - o Using tracking data or training session filming to keep track of training session contacts

Team PCOs must oversee the contact tracing programmes and oversee team arrangements to maximise social distancing and behaviour best practice measures.

In case of a positive case, the definition of close contact will be determined by the relevant competent national/local authority. Nonetheless as guidance only, the World Health Organization (WHO) has published guidelines on what it considers as close contact for the purpose of contact tracing:

<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/contact-tracing-in-the-context-of-covid-19>

## 9. Pre-Competition Medical Examinations (PCME)

For the 2020/21 season, the complete PCME must be conducted as described in the latest UEFA Medical Regulations. For players who have had a confirmed COVID-19 previous infection, or who have had suspicious symptoms or contacts, additional medical examination must be completed, depending on the type and the severity of each player's symptoms.

Teams will need to confirm via the player's list that all above-mentioned PCME have been carried out.

## 10. Development of symptoms onsite

Anyone involved in a match who develops any symptoms indicative of a potential COVID-19 infection must immediately isolate themselves at their hotel and must contact the relevant competent national/local authorities for guidance.

Key indicators of a COVID-19 infection include high fever, dry cough, tiredness, breathlessness or loss of sense of taste and/or smell.

A full list of potential indicator symptoms can be found here:

[https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus#tab=tab\\_3](https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus#tab=tab_3)



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## UEFA PROTOCOL: OPERATIONAL PRINCIPLES

### 11. International travel procedures

#### 11.1. Team players, technical and operational staff

It is strongly recommended to travel to UEFA matches on charter flights. UEFA reserves the right to make it a compulsory condition for certain competitions. In all other cases, commercial flights may be used with additional precautions.

The following are requirements for teams when travelling:

1. Use of face masks in all public areas during travel as well as on the planes and team buses and whenever contact with other people is possible
2. Social distancing at all times, including within the team delegation
3. Regular use of hand sanitiser
4. For charter flights, teams must request that the plane is fully disinfected before the flight.

Teams should liaise with the airport authorities at both departure and arrival airports to determine whether special arrangements can be made to minimise contact with the general public, such as the use of a VIP customs and transfer service. Teams must also be prepared to comply with any SARS-CoV-2 RNA testing at the airport that is required by the relevant competent national/local authorities.

The host team/host association must make every effort to facilitate the arrival and transfer of the visiting team. This should include direct collection in a private bus at the aircraft, private passage through customs and direct passage, avoiding public spaces where possible, to their bus. This arrangement must be discussed between the host team and the travelling team.

When possible, the return flight should take place immediately after the match.

For matches played in a tournament format, once teams have arrived onsite before their first match in the competition, they must remain on-site until after their respective last match in the competition. Teams are not permitted to leave the tournament venue for training camps, to take part in other matches or for any other reason.

#### 11.2. Team official delegation

The team's official delegation (e.g. club president, board of directors etc) travelling with the players and technical staff must be kept to an absolute minimum. Unless otherwise established by UEFA, a maximum of 10 people from the team's official delegation may attend the match. The members of the team delegation must be included in the team testing pool and must follow the same testing programme as the rest of the team, in order to ensure all interactions between team delegations are between tested persons, and to ensure the team delegation can safely travel with the players and technical staff. The official delegation must keep in mind that they are part of the testing pool and must follow the best practice behaviour recommendations, especially at the stadium where they must avoid contact with all persons outside the tested group. It is recommended that the official delegation of each team is seated separately in the stadium, ideally with a private skybox or similar private area provided for each team. The team's PCO must oversee the measures taken to ensure this group maintains proper separation and distancing from other persons.

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Two persons (e.g. President, GS, CEO) from this pool of tested official delegates will be given access to Zone 1 of the stadium in addition to the normal playing and technical staff delegation of 45 persons. However, these two persons may only access this area from the time of team arrival until the scheduled start of the warm-up and again from 15 minutes after the end of the match.

Members of the official delegation must wear masks at all times while present at the stadium on both MD-1 and MD.

### 11.3. Referees, Match Officers and venue staff

The referees, UEFA match officers and venue staff must take maximum care to maintain strict social distancing at all times while travelling. They must wear a face mask (for mouth and nose) throughout their journey whenever social distancing is not possible, or expected to be impossible, and use hand sanitiser regularly.

## 12. Local travel procedures

### 12.1. Team players, technical and operational staff

It is recommended to use two team buses for all trips instead of one. Team buses must be thoroughly disinfected shortly before collecting the team. It is also recommended that the team bus driver(s) be tested for COVID-19 before driving the team. If the visiting team is not using its own team bus and usual driver then they must include these considerations when booking with a local bus provider.

The bus driver should nonetheless be equipped with an appropriate face mask and remain at least 1.5m from the team members at all times e.g. middle door to be used by all players and staff to enter/leave the bus. The use of plexiglass to isolate the bus driver may be used as an alternative.

### 12.2. Referees, Match Officers and venue staff

- **Referee team:** The host national association is always responsible for providing transport for the match officials and referee observer.
  - The vehicle used for transporting the referees must be thoroughly disinfected before use by the referee team, and if the RLO is not the driver for the referee team, then it is also recommended for the driver to be tested for COVID-19 before driving the team. Nonetheless the referee driver must also wear an appropriate face mask at all times when in the referee transport vehicle, or when in the presence of the referees.
- **UMD:** The host team is required to provide private transfer for the UMD from their arrival in the host city to their departure so that they can avoid the need to use public transport/taxis.
- **Venue team and venue staff:** Venue teams will need to make their own transport arrangements once onsite (e.g. taxis etc). They are therefore required to wear masks at all times while travelling locally and must use hand sanitiser regularly.

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## 13. Hotels

All team members should if possible be allocated individual bedrooms.

Ideally, an exclusive hotel, or alternatively an exclusive floor or wing of a hotel, should be reserved for the sole use of the visiting team during their stay. If this is not possible, the visiting team must make arrangements to prevent any close contact between the team and other guests or staff. This should include

- Private dining area
- Private access routes

The teams themselves are solely responsible for handling team equipment and attire.

The PCO should conclude a written agreement with the hotel that includes all the necessary hygiene measures, such as:

- Wearing of masks/ Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) by hotel staff
- Maximising social distancing by staff
- Cleaning regime of rooms and public spaces (elevators etc)
- Meal arrangements
- Their policy regarding staff who have symptoms of infection

The team's PCO must check that the agreed hygiene measures have actually been taken by the hotel.

During the teams stay, there should be special/thorough disinfection and cleaning of the rooms and spaces used by the team immediately before the team checks in.

Food should be served by the team's own staff and/or as few hotel staff as possible, with food placed on a table and collected by the players/coaches/trainers. No clean-up is to take place until the players have left the dining areas so that the smallest number of hotel staff is present in the dining room during meals.

Team members (both players and technical staff) must not leave the hotel unless it is under previously agreed and organised conditions and does not involve coming into contact with anyone outside of their group. For longer stays, team excursions may be organised, but these must be strictly controlled to ensure social distancing is respected throughout the excursion and/or that appropriate PPE is used by all members of the team delegation if social distancing is not possible. The team PCO is responsible for ensuring that the standard hygiene measures are adhered to during any team excursion.

For longer stays, visiting teams will also need to make appropriate laundry arrangements with their hotel, ensuring in particular that washed clothing and equipment (bibs etc) are only handled by members of the team delegation and not by hotel staff.

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## 14. Stadium Operations

### 14.1. Hygiene measures at the stadium

#### 14.1.1. Stadium entry

Anyone entering the stadium on MD and MD-1 must have their temperature taken on arrival. Dedicated operational implementation plans defined by UEFA for specific events may however deviate from this rule.

In addition, if required by the relevant competent national/local authorities, anyone entering the stadium who is not in the tested groups must complete an epidemiological acknowledgment form.

If a member of the team delegation or match officials (Group 1 & 2) shows abnormalities in their temperature checks, the HO and the UMD will be called immediately, and the UMD must decide that access to the stadium will be denied. Before taking the decision, the UMD may request that additional temperature checks are carried out. If temperature checks are carried out using by a general temperature sensor, additional individual temperature checks may also be requested.

If any other person shows abnormalities in their temperature checks, or if any person fails to complete the epidemiological acknowledgement form or cannot acknowledge the statements made in such form, the HO is to be called to make decisions on access to the stadium.

#### 14.1.2. Face masks and hand sanitiser

Face masks covering the mouth and nose must be worn by anyone operating in the stadium at all times on MD-1 and matchday. This requirement is not obligatory on other days (e.g. MD-3, MD-2) if social distancing can be maintained (if social distancing is not possible at all times then a mask must be worn on all days). Failure to comply with wearing masks will be reported to the UMD and the venue HO, and may lead to ejection from the stadium.

The requirement to wear a mask includes, but is not limited to, the following target groups: all members of team delegations including official delegations of team executives (except players and coaching/technical/medical staff when seated on the substitutes bench or technical seats), UMD, UEFA venue staff, all members of Group 3 of the testing groups, stadium operational staff, stadium stewards, groundstaff, catering and cleaning staff, broadcast staff, media (except commentators during the match and presenters presenting to camera), photographers, signage and LED teams and independent medical staff (pitchside emergency teams, stadium medics).

Everyone working onsite is responsible for equipping themselves with their own face masks.

Nonetheless for all matches host teams are required to have an additional supply of face masks which can be provided to other stakeholders at cost price in case they are not equipped with sufficient masks.

Face masks worn in Zones 1 and 2 must be free of manufacturer or sponsor branding. Masks worn by players and team staff may include one team logo of a maximum 20cm<sup>2</sup> in size.

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Hand sanitiser must be provided at all access points to the stadium, and at the entry points to each of the stadium zones described in section 14.2 below. Hand sanitiser must be used frequently, and in particular must be used by everyone entering the stadium or when changing stadium zones.

### 14.1.3. Stadium hygiene procedures

In general, all areas of the stadium that are in use for the match must be cleaned prior to use. These areas include media working areas, seating (depending on use), offices, meeting rooms and sanitary facilities.

## 14.2. Stadium zoning

### 14.2.1. Stadium zones

A zoning system will be implemented in order to prevent any uncontrolled or indirect contact with the teams.

**Zone 1** – ‘team zone’

**Zone 2** – ‘pitch surroundings’

**Zone 3** – ‘tribunes, stadium interiors and stadium exterior controlled zone’

**Zone 1** – The ‘team zone’ includes the dressing room areas (team and referee dressing rooms, doping control station, medical room, delegate’s office, tunnel), the player benches, technical seats and any additional seats in the stands used to extend the benches or technical seats, the pitch and pitch surrounds up to the pitch perimeter advertising boards (or a distance of 4m from the pitch markings where no pitch perimeter advertising boards are installed – in this case floor markings should be installed in key areas around the pitch to indicate the extent of Zone 1), and the warm-up areas including a distance of 1.5m around the warm-up areas. This zone is for the groups required exclusively for match operations (players, substitutes, coaching, technical and medical staff, referees, UEFA match delegate, match officers and venue teams, doping control officers and chaperones, pitch medics, security, hygiene staff) but also people fulfilling the minimum delivery obligations, such as limited HB staff, technical suppliers, VAR, signage, etc. Only those who can present a confirmation of a negative SARS-CoV-2 RNA test will be allowed to enter Zone 1, and no more than approximately 120 people are allowed to be in Zone 1 at any one time.

**Zone 2** – The ‘pitch surroundings’ means the area between the pitch perimeter advertising boards and the tribunes. Along the side of the benches this zone extends from 2m from the outer limit of the warm-up area to the tribunes. This zone is for manned camera positions, HB staff (e.g. pitch reporters), photographers, ball children, groundskeepers, LED operators, etc. During preparation times (T1) no more than 100 people are allowed in Zone 2, but while the teams are in the stadium on MD-1 and MD (T2) no more than 50 persons are allowed in this zone.

**Zone 3** – The ‘tribunes’ are the seating sections of the stadium. This includes the usual seating areas as well as the hospitality areas, media tribunes, camera positions and the stadium control room. The ‘stadium interiors’ include all indoor areas at the stadium not included in Zone 1. This therefore includes any team offices and working rooms, stadium offices, media and photographer working rooms. This area may be used for manned

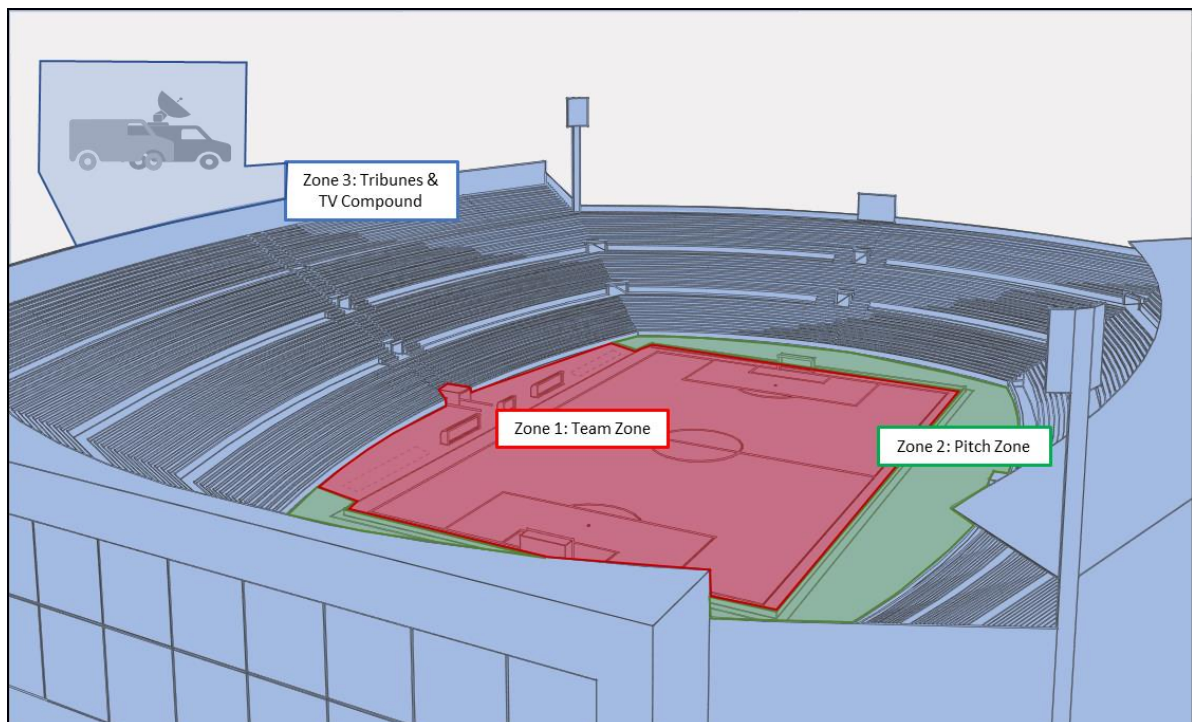
camera positions removed from Zone 1 warm-up areas. The 'stadium exterior controlled zone' extends from the outer limits of Zones 1 and 2 to the outer boundary of the private stadium environs (wall, fence, turnstiles, gate etc.) as well as the broadcast compound even if outside the stadium boundary.

A plan must be prepared in advance in order to define the approximate number of people who will need to be present in Zone 1 and 2 at any given time during the day. The same analysis may be extended to Zone 3 if the local regulations impose any restrictions to the numbers of people per zone, or in relation to the total number of people permitted in the stadium.

Queuing or other specific gatherings that can be expected (e.g. arrival of media or post-match media activities) must also be identified and mitigation measures taken such as barriers, signage and additional access points.

The match organiser must draw up a staffing plan ahead of each match for approval by the venue HO and the UMD.

The match organiser is responsible for overseeing the movement of people between different zones. The venue HO must take a decision in case of doubt and report any violation of the zoning system to the UMD.



#### 14.2.2. Stadium zoning timings

MD-1 and MD are divided into three different time frames for dynamic planning of staff requirements:

**T1:** Morning until disinfection of Zone 1 starts (normally shortly before arrival of the kit vans which must be announced in advance on the TIME platform)

**T2:** From the end of T1 until players and officials have left the stadium

**T3:** After all players and officials have left the stadium



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### 14.2.3. Zoning access and movement on MD-1

**If either team or the referees are training** at the stadium then the following applies:

During T1: transit through Zone 1 must be controlled and limited to only those people with a specific need.

During T2: movement between Zones is strictly limited. In principle, no one may enter Zone 1 except the tested groups of the teams, match officers and officials and venue staff. Specific exceptions may be possible for operators of approved camera positions and broadcast staff to conduct interviews. Movement between Zones 2 and 3 is permitted.

During T3: transit through Zone 1 must be controlled and limited to only those people with a specific need. Movement between Zones 2 and 3 is not restricted.

**If there is no training** at the stadium at all on MD-1:

At all times, transit through Zone 1 must be controlled and limited to only those people with a specific need.

Movement between Zones 2 and 3 is not restricted.

### 14.2.4. Zoning access and movement on MD

**During T1:** transit through Zone 1 must be controlled and limited to only those people with a specific need.

**During T2:** movement between Zones 2 and 3 is permitted but in principle, no one may enter Zone 1 except the tested groups of the teams, match officers and officials and venue staff. A specific exception is made for ground staff for pitch maintenance when players and officials have all left the pitch, and may be possible for operators of approved camera positions and broadcast staff to conduct interviews.

**During T3:** Movement between zones is not restricted.

## 14.3. Stadium access and accreditation management

The host team is always responsible for accreditation devices allowing access to the stadium. For centralised matches, a UEFA accreditation system will be implemented, but will only be used as a zoning system to allow entry to the different zones of the stadium. The UEFA accreditation system will be used to control numbers entering the specific zones and so the number of accreditation devices issued giving access to each zone will be controlled. The UEFA accreditation will not be used as a stadium access device at any matches, so will not give the bearer access to the stadium on its own.

For all non-centralised matches, in addition to the stadium access accreditation, the match organiser must also implement a zoning system and a corresponding accreditation system that matches the zoning concept described above.

### 14.3.1. Accreditation system application

The accreditation system must allow stewards to clearly identify who is authorised to be in which zone at what time.



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The stadium safety and security officers, stewards and private security must be clearly briefed about both the stadium zoning system and the various times, as well as the importance of its application. The stadium entry procedure described in section 14.1.1 must be strictly applied by the match organiser. All staff working in the stadium must be asked to respect the system and to cooperate fully with stewards.

To highlight the sensitivity of Zone 1, it is recommended to implement a very clear visual floor-level demarcation at all potential points of access to Zone 1 to indicate the start of Zone 1 at each point.

#### 14.3.2. Management of stadium entry and accreditation collection points

Any areas where queuing may be required must be arranged and managed in such a way as to maintain social distancing. Signage, floor markings and fences/airport barriers should be used wherever necessary to facilitate organisation and to inform people of the requirements.

#### 14.4. Team personnel and numbers at the stadium

Teams are permitted to come to the stadium with a Zone 1 tested group of a maximum of 45 persons for each match. UEFA may reduce or extend this number on a competition-by-competition or round-by-round basis. This allocation must include everyone from the team who will need access to Zone 1, which means players, coaching, technical and medical staff, logistics support (kit manager and security) as well as key operational staff (team main contact / match manager, press officers etc). In principle, only this group of 45 persons will be permitted to enter Zone 1. However if there are one or two additional individuals linked to team operations who have a specific, time-limited function to carry out either before the warm-up starts or after the match has finished (e.g. second press officer), then an additional accreditation pass may be provided if agreed by the UMD or venue director. This pass may only be used at these times, and the person may not access Zone 1 between the start of the warm-up and the end of the match. Zone 1 accreditations will only be issued on production of a negative SARS-CoV-2 RNA test confirmation from the last relevant test, together with a photo ID.

In addition, the match organiser will receive five Zone 1 accreditation passes for operational staff. These may only be used by working staff not linked to the playing/coaching delegation who may need to access Zone 1 for operational reasons. These must include the HO, Match Manager (if relevant), any stadium facilities staff needed for emergency maintenance and security staff or stewards who need to access Zone 1. The match organiser is responsible for ensuring these persons are all tested on MD-3 ahead of each match to ensure all interactions with team delegations, match officers and venue teams are between tested persons.

Other members of the team who are part of the team's tested pool (up to a maximum of 10 persons, although UEFA may reduce or extend this number on a competition-by-competition or round-by-round basis.) are permitted to come to the stadium, but will not be allowed to enter Zone 1 and must be seated in the additional seats provided close to the bench area near Zone 1.

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The team's official delegation (president, board of directors etc) are permitted to come to the stadium (up to a maximum of 10 persons although UEFA may reduce or extend this number on a competition-by-competition or round-by-round basis.). They will be provided seats in the tribune and will not be allowed to enter Zone 1 at any time, with the exception of the two people described in section 11.2 above.

## 14.5. Team arrival/departure procedures at the stadium

### 14.5.1. Arrival

The arrival of each team and the match officials must be staggered to avoid mixing and crowding in the corridors. During team arrivals, the presence of any staff along the route should be kept to a minimum and with stewards in place to temporarily stop any other transit. Any stewards must maintain a minimum 1.5m distance from the team. Teams may go straight to the dressing room, and may perform a pitch inspection as usual, but must avoid congregating in indoor areas or passing through the tunnel at the same time as their opponent.

### 14.5.2. Departure

Teams should leave the dressing rooms as soon as possible after the match and the completion of any media obligations.

## 14.6. Stadium facilities

### 14.6.1. Dressing rooms

Dressing room areas for the teams and technical staff must optimise social distancing and air circulation. Depending on the actual size of the dressing room, additional nearby rooms or spaces may therefore also have to be used. Ideally, a room or area should be set aside for the team's technical staff and equipment that is separate from the player's changing areas.

In addition:

- Any saunas, pools or jacuzzies must be closed or drained
- Individual ice baths may be used if the water is disinfected, and provided that after each person's use the water is replaced and the typical contact points around the bath edges are wiped down with disinfectant
- Any fitness equipment must be disinfected before and after use and must be located either within an area of the dressing room completely separated from the changing area, or in a different room
- Any physio equipment and massage beds must be disinfected before and after use and must be located either within an area of the dressing room completely separated from the changing area, or in a different room

The same principles apply also to the referee dressing room, and if space is limited then additional rooms or alternative solutions must be found for the referee team.

### **Cleaning of dressing rooms, team benches and technical areas**

The dressing room areas, team access routes (corridors, door handles, handrails, etc.) team benches and technical seats (including any additional seating used to maintain social distancing) must be thoroughly disinfected before the team arrives on MD-1, between the

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team training sessions on MD-1 and prior to the match. Once the dressing rooms have been disinfected prior to team arrivals, no one may enter until the teams arrive other than tested team support staff, e.g. team kit staff.

### **Dressing room catering**

Teams must agree on the supply of food and drinks to the dressing rooms between themselves and are responsible for ensuring that any food and drink deliveries adhere to all hygiene requirements and minimise any risk of contamination.

The host is responsible in the same way for any food and beverages they provided to referees and match officers.

For drinks, personal disposable bottles must be used exclusively. They must be collected and disposed of appropriately.

### **14.6.2. Team benches, technical seats and additional seats**

Substitutes and coaching / technical staff must remain at least 1m apart on the bench. Solutions must therefore be found to extend the team benches or separate each seat on the bench. Solutions to adapt this seating may include the use of adjacent seating in the tribunes if accessible. Any additional technical seats and additional seats in the stands used in accordance with the competition regulations/manuals must similarly be separated.

Up to 10 additional seats (with 1m spacing between each seat) must be earmarked in the tribune next to the benches for members of each team's tested pool who are not part of the matchday Zone 1 delegation e.g. suspended, injured or unlisted players or technical staff who are not part of the matchday group. These persons are provided segregated seating close to Zone 1 to avoid any contact with working staff, but they may not enter Zone 1. The seats for these people must therefore be in the tribunes in Zone 3 but must still be segregated from everyone else in this Zone and from any working positions in this area. An appropriate accreditation or access system (e.g. supplementary access device) must be used to access these seats.

### **14.6.3. Player warm-up areas**

Players of each team should warm up in separate zones, so a separate warm-up area should be identified in each half of the pitch area. If this is not possible due to space limitations, the standard warm-up area must be used, but players of opposing teams must remain as apart from each other as possible during warm-ups.

### **14.6.4. Doping control**

Two separate waiting rooms will be required for players to ensure that social distancing can be maintained. An additional Doping Control Chaperone (DCC) will be required to supervise the second waiting room. The chairs in the waiting room must be positioned 1.5m from each other. To ensure proper distancing in the toilet area, teams are required to install one mirror opposite the toilet. This allows the Doping Control Officer to observe the passing of the sample at a safe distance.

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#### 14.6.5. Media and broadcast areas

All media facilities accessed by teams (press conference podiums, flash positions etc) must be disinfected on both MD-1 and matchday before the arrival of the teams.

### 15. Match operations

#### 15.1. Zone 1 tour and match-day organisational meeting (MDOM)

The normal matchday morning pitch inspection is to be replaced by a Zone 1 tour that must be attended by the UMD, main contacts / match managers of both teams, the HO and the stadium manager. The tour must review all the relevant access routes, pitchside seating (benches, technical seats and additional tribune seating), pitchside camera positions etc.

The MDOM will be held immediately after this tour attended by the same group, with all other mandatory participants joining remotely by video conference, which must be organised by the host team.

This tour can also be held on MD-1 evening if all participants agree. The MDOM would then be held on MD morning with everyone attending by video conference organised by the host team.

#### 15.2. Official reception

The official lunch/dinner is not mandatory. The event and the number of participants should be agreed between the teams in advance and due consideration should be given to social distancing. It is recommended that any person either part of, or in close contact with, the team's tested pool should not attend this event.

#### 15.3. Ball children

The home team decides the ball recovery and replacement system to be used for their home matches. If ball children are deployed, 6 to 8 ball children may be deployed around the pitch (additional children may be deployed for pitches surrounded by an athletics track or with a significant distance to the tribunes). Ball children must be positioned in Zone 2 around the pitch behind the pitch perimeter advertising boards.

In addition, 4 to 6 ball children (or groundskeepers) may be positioned in the tribunes (Zone 3), as dictated by the configuration of the stadium.

Ball children must:

- Wear masks
- Keep the ball on the ground at their feet until needed
- Disinfect their hands before and after warm-up and before and after each half
- Maintain at least a 1.5m distance from the players at all times

The HO must find out whether parental consent is required for ball children assignments and parents must also be informed of the entrance checks (questionnaire, temperature measurement) applicable to the ball children.

In addition, all match balls must be disinfected at the end of the warm-up (if the same balls are to be used during the match) and during half-time.

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#### 15.4. Pitch-side medical team

The pitch-side medical team must use PPE as prescribed by the relevant competent national/local authorities and follow the local health regulations for any on pitch lifesaving procedures such as cardiac arrest or spinal trauma.

#### 15.5. Pre-match warm-ups

The time spent in the dressing room should be kept to a minimum. Players may therefore access the pitch to start their pre-match warm-ups earlier than the normal allocated time. Exact timings must be agreed at the latest at the MDOM in order to avoid any overlap with other activities such as pitch maintenance.

#### 15.6. Opening/line-up ceremony

Teams will not line up together in the tunnel as usual before the opening ceremony to avoid congestion in the tunnel area. Teams must therefore exit the dressing room directly to the pitch one team at a time for the on-field pre-match line-up.

Players and referees should maintain at least 1m distance between each person during the line-up ceremony.

No additional activities may be organised (e.g. player escorts, mascots, dancers, musicians, etc.), nor will there be any handshakes between teams or with the referees.

The coin toss will still take place after the line-up ceremony with the two captains and the referee only, while still maintaining a 1m distance.

Pennants may be exchanged as agreed between the two teams.

At half-time and before the second half the teams should again avoid congregating in the tunnel and must instead exit directly to the pitch according to the timings indicated in the match countdown.

#### 15.7. Players and staff on the bench

Players and staff on the substitutes bench and technical seats are not required to wear masks during the match, but are required to maintain social distancing at all times when seated, and players should limit contact as much as possible when warming up.

Individual labelled drinks bottles must be organised by each team for each person on the bench, as well as for each player on the field.

#### 15.8. Shirt-swapping

Players are recommended to refrain from swapping their shirts.

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## 16. UEFA supplier partners, technical suppliers, media and photographers

### 16.1. General principles

All companies and their staff present on site must comply with the applicable national/local legislation as well as all requirements of the UEFA Protocol, including the mandatory wearing of masks at all times in the stadium on both MD-1 and MD

Where involvement in a match is arranged by UEFA, the companies implicated may be required to submit details of their own protocols, hygiene measures and operating plans, which must be adhered to if not exceeded by the UEFA Protocol. Suppliers and partners must adhere to any national or local requirements with regard to their operations e.g. use of plexiglass dividers between working positions.

The host team must ensure that any companies or staff operating at the stadium are informed of all the local requirements and restrictions, as well as the operational principles of this protocol. The venue HO must ensure that these requirements are respected.

Any bibs used by any staff, suppliers, partners and media must be washed between matches (e.g. steward & security bibs, broadcast & photographer bibs, pitch bibs, LED bibs etc).

## 17. Broadcast partners and media

In principle, broadcast and media activities may continue subject to the specifications outlined in this section of the protocol.

### 17.1. Staffing, facilities, and broadcast positions

#### 17.1.1. Broadcast and media staff onsite

The numbers of broadcast staff and media attending a match will be decided based on, inter alia:

- applicable domestic legislation;
- working spaces available (e.g. in the media tribune) with appropriate hygiene measures;
- total number of people permitted in the zones as defined in this protocol as well as any limitation on the number people allowed in the stadium under domestic legislation

The following points must be taken into account by all broadcast and media staff onsite:

- Broadcast staff including presenters and commentators, media staff and photographers must wear masks at all times, subject to certain exceptions set out in this Protocol. Each broadcaster or media organisation is responsible for providing masks for its own onsite staff
- All HB camera operators and broadcast technicians operating in or accessing Zone 1 must have received a negative SARS-CoV-2 RNA test in line with section 7.5.3 above, and must have maintained rigorous social distancing and hygiene measures since being tested.

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### 17.1.2. Broadcast compound and trucks

The compound must be arranged in a way that allows sufficient space for the movement of people without congestion e.g. vehicles appropriately spaced apart, creating additional routes or paths to limit any congestion of people.

### 17.1.3. Broadcast positions, media and photographers during MD-1 training

Broadcast staff, media and photographers may be present in the tribunes for the standard pre-agreed open part of any team training session in the stadium, provided that social distancing is strictly maintained. Manned camera positions will, in principle, only be allowed in Zone 2 or Zone 3, however certain standard manned camera positions may be used in Zone 1 (e.g. pitch-side halfway camera, Steadicams) provided that they can maintain a 1.5m distance from the pitch and pitchside technical areas and the operators (and any required assistants) have tested negative with a SARS-CoV-2 RNA test.

Remote cameras may be installed in any other standard manned indoor or manned pitchside broadcast camera positions normally used at UEFA matches, subject to UEFA's approval of both the proposed remote camera position and the requested camera usage.

### 17.1.4. Tunnel cameras

In principle, indoor manned tunnel camera positions should be replaced by remote cameras installed in positions agreed with UEFA. However, if space allows, a manned indoor tunnel camera may exceptionally be permitted in a fixed position, subject to the approval of UEFA, provided that the camera operator has received a negative SARS-CoV-2 RNA test, and that a minimum 3m distance from players and staff is maintained at all times.

### 17.1.5. Broadcast positions during the match

Manned pitch level camera positions will, in principle, only be allowed in Zone 2; however, certain standard manned camera positions may be used in Zone 1 (e.g. pitch-side halfway camera, Steadicams) provided that they can maintain a 1.5m distance from the player warm-up areas and the assistant referee, that the camera operators and any required assistants have received negative SARS-CoV-2 RNA tests in line with section 17.1.1 above. The number permitted is dependent on the camera positions agreed, but in any case operating the following positions/roles – pitchside halfway camera or two 20m cameras, two Steadicams (with assistants), tunnel camera and two technicians. An additional camera operator and/or HB technician, with a clear, specific Zone 1 function, may be permitted subject to the approval of UEFA.

Any manned camera positions in Zone 1 must be specifically reviewed with the HO and UMD.

If manned pitchside camera positions cannot be installed in a way that ensures safe distancing requirements at all times, alternative positions may be located in Zone 3 in the tribunes if matches are played without, or with limited spectators. Alternatively, for such camera positions, as well as for all indoor Zone 1 camera positions (e.g. tunnel cameras), remote cameras may be installed additionally or instead, subject to UEFA's approval.

Pitch reporter positions may be located at pitch level in Zone 2, or in Zone 3 in the tribune, depending on the stadium configuration.



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Manned 'Bench-cams' i.e. cameras whose primary purpose is to film coach/bench reactions may not be positioned between the benches and therefore solutions must be found using positions outside Zone 1.

#### **17.1.6. Photographers during the match**

A maximum of 16 photographers may work at pitch level during the match. A maximum of eight photographers may work behind the goal-line at each end of the pitch, with a maximum of four on each side of each goal. They must be in clearly marked positions in Zone 2. There must be a minimum of 1.5m between each photographer position.

If it is not possible to accommodate all 16 photographers behind the goal-lines due to space limitations, additional pitch photographer positions may be located in Zone 2 on the touchline opposite the team benches, between the corner flags and the 16m line.

In addition to the pitch photographer positions, additional photographers may work from the stands, subject to the agreement of UEFA and provided that the overall quota for persons working in Zone 3 allows. A minimum 1.5m distance must still be maintained between each photographer position in Zone 3.

Photographers may install remote cameras behind the goals in Zone 1, provided such cameras are installed before the start of the warm-up. Remote cameras may also be checked at half-time provided that no players are on the pitch.

One photographer may, subject to UEFA approval, be permitted to access Zone 1 before kick-off for the purpose of the pre-match team photos.

#### **17.1.7. Media tribune**

The distribution of media in the stands must comply with appropriate hygiene measures such as ensuring only one person per media tribune or commentary position desk and a 1.5m distance between each person, unless alternative physical separation measures e.g. plexiglass or glass screens, already exist. When in operations, commentators are temporarily exempt from the requirement to wear a mask, but must still wear one at all other times.

#### **17.1.8. Media and photographer working areas**

Media and photographer working areas may be used if enough space is available to allow social distancing (at least 4m<sup>2</sup> per person). Useable working desks must be clearly marked. Media and photographers must be assigned desks in these working areas and must not change positions.

Food and beverages may be provided if due measures have been taken for their preparation, packaging, distribution and consumption.

### **17.2. Broadcast and media activities**

#### **17.2.1. Broadcast and media operations**

The following points must be taken into account during all broadcast operations:

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- Microphones used for interviews must be wrapped in plastic which must be changed between each interview. Alternatively, the microphone windshield must be disinfected or replaced between each interview. Each broadcaster must provide the required material for this for its staff.
  - Interviewers must use their own IFB earpiece which must not be shared, or speakers must be installed at the interview position. In principle IFB earpieces may not be proposed or provided to interviewees, however in exceptional circumstances the use of single-use IFB earpieces may be permitted subject to the approval of UEFA.
  - Broadcast staff and photographers must use hand sanitizer before collecting, returning and/or distributing bibs.

#### 17.2.2. Press conferences

Pre- and post-match press conferences may be held as usual. They may either be organised with a video conferencing/remote system or by taking the following physical protection measures:

- Press conference podium at least 3m from the first row of seats and any photographer positions
- Separate and exclusive access for the team representatives must be used wherever possible. If the press conference room has a single entrance, access must be strictly controlled to avoid any crossover between the teams and media.
- Number of media who can attend must be adapted so that a 1.5m distance between each person can be respected at all times
- Photographer positions must be arranged by the match organiser to ensure a 1.5m minimum distance between each position and to other media representatives
- During remote press conferences media representatives may remove their masks when asking their question(s) provided proper social distancing is maintained
- Recording devices (Dictaphones, mobile phones etc) must not be placed on the press conference podium
- The press conference podium must be disinfected between press conferences and the podium microphones must be changed or disinfected

#### 17.2.3. Dressing room filming

HB cameras and reporters will not be allowed to enter team dressing rooms for filming or pre-match stand-ups. Alternative solutions (e.g. remote cameras) may be considered subject to the approval of UEFA and the relevant team, or dressing room filming may be performed by a maximum of two members of the team's own media channel as long as they are part of the tested team Zone 1 delegation and subject to conditions agreed.

#### 17.2.4. Filming team arrivals

One manned camera position at the team bus drop-off point in a fixed position pre-agreed by UEFA at a minimum of 1.5m distance from players and team staff routes. If space and distancing permits, additional remote or manned camera position between the bus drop-off point and the team dressing rooms may be permitted subject to the agreement of UEFA.

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#### 17.2.5. Pre-match stand ups

Stand-up positions may be allocated but only in Zone 2 and with at least 1.5m between the markings of each position. The maximum number of positions available will depend on the stadium configuration.

The number of persons per position is limited to six per position at any one time (including any interview guest). When presenting to camera, presenters are temporarily exempt from the requirement to wear a mask, but must still wear one at all other times. They must keep a minimum 1.5m distance from all other members of the crew (including co-presenters) during this time.

#### 17.2.6. Post-match flash interviews

Post-match interviews may be organised on/around the pitch in outdoor Zone 1 areas once the teams have left the area, or in a suitable pre-approved indoor location. The allocated area must allow for 4m<sup>2</sup> per person and must allow for at least 1.5m between the markings of each position. The reporter and camera crew must at all times maintain at least 1.5m distance from the interviewee in outdoor flash interview areas (3m distance for indoor flash interview areas). Common sense must prevail in terms of location and access. For example, a player may be asked to leave Zone 1 to access the flash location – if the location is nearby and all contact can be avoided then this is acceptable. An accompanying steward may be considered. All arrangements must be discussed and agreed beforehand between the HB, team representative and UEFA (for all centralised matches).

#### 17.2.7. Mixed zones

Mixed zones must not be organised. This is due to the need to avoid congestion of media representatives as well as to reduce risk of close proximity between teams and the media.

## 18. Adoption and entry into force

This Protocol was adopted by the UEFA Executive Committee on 9 July 2020, with amendments approved on 24 September 2020 and 3 December 2020.

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## Annex A – Testing requirements

### 1. Testing coordination

#### 1.1. Pre-departure testing

The procedure for Group 1 coordination is as follows:

- UEFA will confirm to the TSP the teams participating in the relevant round of the competition, together with contact details of each team's MLO.
- The TSP will contact the team MLO as early as possible (exact date depends on date/time of previous match) to arrange a time for the pre-departure test to be shared with UEFA as well for information.
  - The MLO must also organise an appropriate sampling facility at the team's training ground, stadium or other appropriate facility.
  - The testing will be organised to take no more than approximately 2hrs for the entire testing pool to be sampled.
- Following the relevant player registration deadline, UEFA will provide to the TSP with an initial list of persons to be tested for each team to allow the sampling kits to be prepared.
- On the morning of the test, UEFA will provide to the TSP with the final list of persons to be tested, with copy to the team MLO.
  - The TSP testing will take place with the number of staff present necessary to ensure all samples can be taken within approximately 2hrs.
  - The team MLO must ensure the presence of all persons listed on the final list according to the schedule agreed with the TSP and shall ensure that all consents and other formalities for which the samples for testing should be taken are signed upfront to avoid delays in the sample collection process.
  - Any players or staff not tested will not be able to travel or enter Zone 1 of the stadium and will not be able to take part in the match.
- The team MLO is responsible for ensuring that, in case of emergency, appropriate medical staff are present during the testing procedure.
- All members of the TSP testing team must wear appropriate PPE for the testing procedure, and any team staff present must wear a mask at all times.
- Teams and individuals will be required to sign any relevant documentation allowing the TSP to carry out SARS-CoV-2 RNA testing in accordance with this Protocol.
- After the testing, the team MLO and the TSP will be requested to sign a document stating that all tests were successfully performed.
- UEFA may appoint a representative to oversee the testing procedure and to report any issues to UEFA directly.
- Once all tests have been analysed, the TSP will share the results;
  - With the team MLO, who will receive the full list of results including positive and negative test results. Teams and tested persons shall ensure that UEFA is granted access to the individualised negative test results immediately upon receipt so the UMD can cross-check venue access processes;
  - With the relevant competent national/local authorities in case of positive results, if necessary.

#### 1.2. Testing at match location

- No later than seven days before the required sampling day, the MLO of a team for Group 1 and the person in question for Group 2 will contact the TSP to inform it about the match

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venue, the participating clubs and related people for whom sample collection for testing should be organised.

- No later than 48 hours prior to the planned sampling date, the TSP will contact the MLO of each team in order to agree on the exact timing of the on-site testing.
- Unless otherwise organised by UEFA directly, the team MLO is responsible for arranging an appropriate testing location, either at the team hotel, the match stadium or other appropriate location.
- The morning of the relevant test, UEFA will provide the TSP with the final list of persons to be tested, with copy to the team MLO.
- The Service Provider tests will take place with the number of staff present necessary to ensure all samples can be taken within 2hrs
  - The team MLO must ensure the presence of all persons listed on the final list according to the schedule agreed with the TSP and ensure that all consents and other formalities for which the samples for testing should be taken are signed upfront to avoid delays in the sample collection process.
  - Any players or staff not tested will not be able to enter Zone 1 of the stadium and will not be able to take part in the match.
- The team MLO is responsible for ensuring that, in case of emergency, appropriate medical staff are present during the testing procedure.
- All members of the TSP testing team must wear appropriate PPE for the testing process, and any team staff present must wear a mask at all times.
- Teams and individuals will be required to sign any relevant documentation allowing the TSP to carry out the SARS-CoV-2 RNA testing in accordance with this Protocol.
- After the tests, the team MLO and the TSP will be requested to sign a document confirming that all tests were successfully performed.
- UEFA may appoint a representative to oversee the testing procedure and to report any issues to UEFA directly.
- Once all tests have been analysed, the TSP will share the results;
  - With the team MLO, who will receive the full list of results including positive and negative test results. Teams and tested persons shall ensure that UEFA is granted access to the individualised negative test results immediately upon receipt so the UMD can cross-check venue access processes;
  - With the relevant competent national/local authorities in case of positive results, if necessary.

## 2. Sampling room

The sampling room must comply with the following requirements:

- a. minimum size of 12 m<sup>2</sup>;
- b. two office-size tables;
- c. three chairs;
- d. at least one window;
- e. separate entrance and exit;
- f. adjacent waiting room large enough for a group of 5 – 7 people and to comply with the required social distancing measures.

The relevant team is responsible for providing UEFA with sampling rooms (or suitable alternative e.g. tent) that comply with the above-mentioned criteria for use during matches mentioned in the Objectives.

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The respective sampling team of the TSP is responsible for preparing the sampling room for the tests to be conducted in a sterile environment.

The sampling room must ensure the privacy of the person being tested and be used solely as a sampling room for the duration of the testing procedure.

Only the TSP sampling team, the MLO, the UEFA representative and the persons to be tested are allowed to be in the sampling room at the time of the sample collection.

The TSP sampling team and the MLO may request security officers or stewards to ensure that no unauthorised persons enter the sampling room.

## Annex B – Illness Record Form

The below Illness Record Form template to be used for a UPAP recommendation is to be found in the UEFA Return to Play folder in TIME Documents.

### Personal Details

Name/Surname	Date of Birth	Club/NA	Role	Position within Club (if staff member)
			<input type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Staff member <input type="checkbox"/> UEFA match officers/venue team members Nationality:	

### Anamnestic Data / History

Please describe your illness record related to Covid-19 (When did you contract the virus? When did you tested positive? How long did you encounter symptoms related to the virus? For how long have you been asymptomatic?)

### Symptoms

Please describe your symptoms:

### Decision

What was the decision taken by the local/national authorities, if any?

### Findings / Results

Please upload all your findings via this [link](#) . Please make sure to name all your documents accordingly:

- CLUB\_SURNAME\_Illness record
- CLUB\_SURNAME\_laboratory report
- CLUB\_SURNAME\_serology report
- Etc.



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**Request to the UEFA Protocol Advisory Panel (UPAP):**

**Please specify what you are requesting from the UPAP? (e.g. for purely information purposes, expert advice, support related to the communication with the competent authorities etc.)**

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**Once completed, please return a copy to: [covid19testing@uefa.ch](mailto:covid19testing@uefa.ch)**