



Coronavirus and Grounds Maintenance in the Wider Game

Introduction

Following the outbreak of COVID-19 (the coronavirus), all government advice should be followed.

For the avoidance of doubt, due to the developing nature of the outbreak, all grounds teams must ensure that they are monitoring relevant Government sites which may change and therefore have an impact on the contents of this document which is correct as of the morning of 3rd April 2020.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

As of 23rd March 2020, the Government introduced increasingly stringent social distancing in a further attempt to reduce the spread of the coronavirus and the potential impact on vulnerable individuals. It is essential that this advice is adhered to in relation to the health and wellbeing of all individuals.

Social Distancing and Grounds Work

As a result of the Government's announcements, a number of businesses across the United Kingdom have introduced home working for all staff. There will also be a delay to all regular cricket participation and a delay to the regular season.

The latest government guidance means that ground staff/facilities maintenance falls under:

'Travelling to and from work, but only where this absolutely cannot be done from home, provided you are well and neither you nor any of your household are self-isolating.'

Should you decide that a number of your grounds staff should continue to look after your facilities during this period of social isolation and are able to do so whilst keeping to the Government's guidance, please be aware of several things that you should consider doing to minimise the impact of the virus on your teams and your business.

Things to think about with regards to your grounds:

1. Public gatherings and use of facilities are suspended.
2. Await Cricket Scotland instructions regarding any regular cricket participation and NORMAL activities.
3. Avoid travel unless absolutely necessary.
4. Most of what you do as grounds operatives naturally means that you are physically distanced from one another anyway. However, you will need to be particularly mindful of those points where you are not.

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5. If you are a manager, then do consider how to maintain effective communication.
6. Do your own risk assessment. (For businesses with five or more employees, you are required to formally document risk assessments). When you have decided on the measures you are to take then record it, communicate it and stick to it. It is very important to consider your own teams working habits and setting and to assess where the risk of transmission is.
7. Do ensure that the right type of products are available for hand care.
8. Some people may have drastically increased their hand washing habits and may be at risk from dermatitis. Barrier creams and skin moisturisers should be available as well as hand cleansers. Check and make sure people know how to use them properly. Hands are the main cause of the spread of the virus.
9. Do consider splitting your team into distinct groups of workers who never come into contact with each other, ideally not more than two people at a time. This would include staggered shifts/days worked, break times or even separate rest areas. This way, if one member of the team catches the virus and those around them need to self-isolate, the other team pairs will be able to operate.
10. Do maintain a minimum distance of two metres from each other, including at break times. If the weather is suitable then take the opportunity to take breaks outside. Do ensure that there is enough shade available for all team members to sit out of the sun if they wish to and that they can do so whilst maintaining their distance.
11. Do not continue with tasks that require larger team efforts, such as pulling large flat sheet covers. Either use smaller covers or stop using them at all if it cannot be done safely with divided resources.
12. Do enforce heightened general hygiene measures in rest areas and communal areas. Establish regular (after each use) cleaning for all work surfaces, kettles, microwaves and sink areas etc. using disinfectant sprays.
13. Cleaning cloths should only be used once before being properly washed in a hot cycle washing machine. Alternatively, use disposable wipes or blue-roll type products instead.
14. Do not communally use mugs, plates, bowls etc and do make sure that each person has their own items with their name on or wash items in a dishwasher at a high temperature.
15. Do establish a culture of cleaning machines thoroughly immediately after use, i.e. wash the machine down and disinfect the handles, grass boxes etc. Products such as kennel disinfectants are sold in bulk and are a cheap and effective way of doing this (and many of them smell nice!)
16. Do make sure that you have suitable sprayers with which to apply the products and wipe down with blue roll or similar.
17. Consider what will happen should we all be asked to stay at home. Could robotic mowers be a solution for you in order to maintain the grass height and prevent a hay crop?
18. Where essential to use changing facilities, staff should bring their own towels and showering/changing items.
19. Individuals must not be at work if:
 - i. they exhibit any potential symptoms; and/or
 - ii. they have been in contact with anybody exhibiting potential symptoms of coronavirus within the past 14 days.

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

An assumption throughout this document is that any ground staff member required at any work does not meet the current government guidance for self-isolation (as of 3rd April 2020).

For more specific advice on matters relating to grounds, please contact Gordon Drummond.

You can also get advice on maintaining your square via this link:

<http://www.cricketscotland.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/What-To-Do-With-Your-Square-1.pdf>

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