



FIRST TEAM MATCH DAY PROTOCOLS 2021/22

July 2021

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A. INTRODUCTION

Overview

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic continues to pose challenges for the staging of League matches in a safe environment for participants and supporters, despite the relaxation of Government restrictions and a return of fans with capacity restrictions being lifted. All this means that there remains a balance of the need to return to normal operations with the continuing requirement for diligence and for the ability to apply stringent Protocols governing activity within the matchday environment should the need arise.

Our primary aims remain that:

- i. Players and Football Staff continue to be able to train and play matches safely
- ii. Government and stakeholder confidence is maintained in the EFL and the activities of Clubs and Players
- iii. Minimising the risk to vulnerable individuals and the general public from playing activities
- iv. The League, Clubs and Players are able to adapt swiftly in the event that the COVID-19 situation deteriorates, whether as a result of an outbreak, the spread of a new variant or otherwise. In such circumstances, it is vital that these Protocols can be escalated quickly, to ensure that the EFL can continue to operate
- v. Clubs are able to fulfil fixtures to finish the season and preserve EFL central revenues

As in previous seasons, this document sets out a series of uniform operating procedures applicable to all Clubs. This protocol will require the consent of all stakeholders and the agreement of Clubs.

It is divided into the following sections:

- i. A protocol applicable to Clubs' first team matchday operations (the 'GREEN Protocol', section B, below)
- ii. A process for the implementation of 'Emergency Measures' by the League in the event of an outbreak or imposition of heightened restrictions by Government at either local or national level (the 'RED Protocols', section C, below).

The League will continue to monitor compliance with these Protocols and may arrange visits or 'spot checks' to the ground.

The provisions of this Matchday Protocol do not replace or vary the obligations placed on Clubs in the First Team Training Protocol, which remain in force and continue to regulate Club conduct in the First Team training ground environment. For the avoidance of doubt nothing in this protocol replaces, reduces or affects in any way the obligations imposed on Clubs by statute and/or common law in the fields of medicine, occupational health and/or health and safety. Where Clubs consider that they can implement additional arrangements which help meet or exceed the standards set out herein, they should engage with the EFL at the earliest opportunity.

Where, in accordance with any Regulation, Club resolution or directive from a statutory body or the League, a League Match is required to be played at a neutral venue, the League, the venue hosting the League Match and the two participating Clubs will enter into good faith discussions to determine who assumes the obligations imposed on the **Home Club** in this Matchday Protocol.

Format

In line with the First Team Training Protocol, this Matchday Protocol sets out obligations binding on Clubs and incorporated into the Regulations, a breach of which will be dealt with under Section 9 of the EFL Regulations, albeit with an expedited timetable requiring response to the charge within 3 days, and hearing promptly thereafter. The obligations apply in respect of all League Matches during Season 2021/22.

Supplementing this Matchday Protocol is a range of non-binding guidance, which has been issued by the EFL in the form of the Matchday Operations Guidance and seeks to support Clubs in the practical application of their obligations to ensure the safest possible stadium environment for the delivery of a League Match. The guidance covers considerations for all areas of matchday delivery save for the admission of spectators which is covered in the SGSA guidance.

It is envisaged that the Matchday Operations Guidance **will be a 'living document'** and will evolve as Government guidance in relation to COVID-19 develops. However, given that its provisions operate as Regulations, no amendment to this Matchday Protocol will be made without the necessary consultation with Clubs.

Definitions

Capitalised terms not otherwise defined in this Matchday Protocol bear the meanings given to them in the Regulations.

References to individuals collectively referred to as **'Players and Football Staff'** are to those individuals identified as such in Paragraph 6 of the First Team Training Protocols including;

- Players; and
- Club employees, consultants and contractors essential for the performance of training (including coaches, doctors, analysts, physios, sports scientists and other members of the Club's medical team, but not including security staff, cleaners or members of the Club's catering staff).

References to **'Matchday Personnel'** are to individuals who are not Players and Football Staff but who are otherwise permitted to attend the venue at which a League Match is to be played, in accordance with this Matchday Protocol, including:

- Staff (whether employees, contractors or consultants) and/or representatives of the participating Clubs
- Employees and/or or representatives of the participating Clubs and/or the League
- Match Officials, Observers and Coaches where appointed
- Broadcaster or media representatives accredited to attend the League Match

In respect of each League Match, the Players and Football Staff and Matchday Personnel who are permitted to attend the venue as part of their job role are collectively referred to as 'Cleared Individuals'.

References to 'Supporters' are to individuals in attendance at the League match who are not Cleared Individuals or individuals otherwise accredited to access the Purple Zone (in accordance with paragraph 4 below) and whose admission to the Stadium on match day is subject to the conditions of entry referred to at paragraph 8 below

EFL Designated Roles

The EFL's COVID-19 Competition Officer is David Cookson (dcookson@efl.com)

The EFL's COVID-19 Medical Officer is Dr Richard Higgins (rhiggins@efl.com) and Dr Subhashis Basu (sbasu@efl.com)

B. GREEN PROTOCOL

1. By no later than seven days prior to each Club's first home league fixture, it must complete and submit to the League a multi-disciplinary risk assessment of all aspects of hosting a League Match at its Stadium ('COVID-19 Stadium Risk Assessment') that incorporates the following:
 - i. a venue operation plan for the preparation for and hosting of League Matches at its Stadium, including a plan of the Stadium and its environs, defining all areas, routes and access/egress points and including measures for the optimisation of social distancing and all Government recommended hygiene measures throughout
 - ii. the creation of a **'Red Zone'** (which must become active no later than three and a half hours prior to kick-off on each matchday) and which must include the stadium entry point for First Team Players and Football Staff, the pitch, technical areas, changing rooms and any other area that will be accessed by the First Team Players and Football Staff on a matchday.
 - iii. the creation of a **'Purple Zone'** in accordance with paragraph 4 below
 - iv. the creation of a barrier between any seated area in the Red Zone that would otherwise be immediately adjacent to Supporters in attendance and the Supporters themselves
 - v. appropriate modification of facilities within the Red Zone where social distancing between First Team Players and Football Staff and non-First Team Players and Football Staff cannot be easily maintained (for example the utilisation of one-way systems and the use of appropriate signage)
 - vi. a security plan, screening process and accreditation system for all Cleared Individuals that limits contact between First Team Players and Football Staff and Matchday Personnel wherever possible
 - vii. an assessment of the impact of all measures adopted as part of the COVID-19 Stadium Risk Assessment on existing emergency action plans, security plans, health and safety plans and/or fire evacuation plans
 - viii. designation of:
 - a. an isolation room within the Stadium and consideration of steps to be taken to manage any individual(s) who develop COVID-19 symptoms while within the Stadium
 - b. an individual (with the qualifications and experience referred to at paragraph 6, below) responsible for oversight of the isolation room and clinical management of any individuals who develop suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19 while within the Stadium, ensuring that all such cases are managed in line with standard COVID-19 case management protocols, this Matchday Protocol and Government guidance

- ix. an appropriate risk assessment conducted for individuals that are deemed to be clinically (extremely) vulnerable, especially if they haven't or can't be vaccinated (in line with Government guidance)
 - x. provision for the conduct of anti-doping during and/or immediately after a League Match, including appropriate modifications to all facilities necessary for doping control to maintain compliance with any Government guidance concerning social distancing and necessary hygiene measures
 - xi. provision for the delivery of each Club's rights holder and non-rights holder access obligations in accordance with the Regulations and any guidance issued by the EFL
 - xii. a copy of the relevant safety certificate (and shall make available all documents, information and evidence submitted to the SAG and/or SGSA on order to secure the relevant safety certificate to the League on request)
2. By no later than seven days prior to its first home fixture, each Club must devise a 'COVID-19 Stadium Operations Policy', which must:
- i. be agreed by its Board and Chief Executive Officer
 - ii. identify an individual as the 'Designated COVID-19 Stadium Operations Officer' (who may be the same as the Club's Designated COVID-19 Officer)
 - iii. reflect the Club's COVID-19 Stadium Risk Assessment Policy
 - iv. include a framework to:
 - a. support the education and familiarisation of all of the Club's Cleared Individuals with regard to the Club's COVID-19 Stadium Operations Policy
 - b. ensure that, no later than two days before any League Match at which it is the Home Club, the following individuals are provided with a copy of the Club's COVID-19 Stadium Operations Policy:
 - 1. the Team Doctor and COVID-19 Officer of the Visiting Club
 - 2. a representative of Professional Game Match Officials Limited
 - v. include guidance as to the process by which the Cleared Individual can opt out of the policy at a later date, should they choose to do so (in which case, they will not be permitted to attend the Stadium)

- vi. be submitted to the League (and any revisions of that document must be submitted to the League within two days of their agreement under paragraph 2i and no later than 48 hours prior to the League Match in respect of which they intend to take effect).
3. Each Club must ensure that, before any Cleared Individual attends the Stadium, they have provided written confirmation (in such terms as are approved by the EFL) that they have received and agree **to be bound by the Club's COVID-19 Stadium Operations Policy**. Confirmation provided by the individuals listed at paragraph 2iv.b.1 and 2iv.b.2, above, shall constitute acceptance on behalf of all First Team Players and Football Staff and Matchday Personnel employed by or representative of the Visiting Club or PGMOL (as appropriate) that they agree to be bound by the relevant Club's COVID-19 Stadium Operations Policy.

Purple Zone

4. The Home Club must create a Purple Zone, which must become active at the same time as the Red Zone:
 - i. To provide an area or areas in which pre- and post-match interviews and other essential pre- and post-match activity can be conducted indoors and in which representatives of broadcasters entitled to be present in the Stadium in close proximity to the Red Zone in accordance with the Regulations must be located
 - ii. With access limited to only those whose attendance in the Purple Zone is essential for performance of the functions referred to at paragraph 1xi above, and who have complied with the requirements of paragraph 8 below
5. Where, due to the configuration of the Stadium, it is not possible to facilitate pre- and/or post-match interviews in a socially distanced way within the Purple Zone (i.e. with social distance maintained between Players & Football Staff and non-Players & Football Staff), such interviews must be conducted in an outdoor pitchside presentation position.
6. Separate Media Protocols have been produced that fully set of the principles that apply and obligations on Clubs in respect of media matters.

Designated Roles

7. In addition to the roles required by paragraph two, above, each Club must designate an individual as:
 - i. its 'COVID-19 Medical Officer', who will ordinarily be the Club's Team Doctor, but in all cases must:
 - a. be a registered medical practitioner, licensed to practice by the General Medical Council
 - b. be familiar with all relevant developments and Government guidance in relation to COVID-19 and post COVID-19 pathology
 - c. be in attendance at the Stadium for the period from one hour prior to kick-off of each League Match until one hour after the conclusion of the League Match

Management of COVID-19 Symptoms and Stadium Access

8. Each Home Club must ensure that only the following individuals may access the Red Zone on a matchday:
- i. Players and Football Staff who are subject to the screening requirements of the First Team Training Protocols
 - ii. Match Officials, Observers and Coaches where appointed
 - iii. Club Media Staff
 - iv. Other essential Staff identified as essential to the operation of the Red Zone
 - v. UK Anti-Doping
 - vi. Those identified by the League as requiring access for broadcasted matches
 - vii. Child Mascots and / or other individuals who following the risk assessment undertaken by the Club may have access to external Red Zone areas only (i.e. pitch and pitchside). Clubs must undertake their own risk assessments in relation to the use of Child Mascots and other pitch activity on matchday and follow any applicable Government guidance. Child Mascots, their families and anyone else involved in the pitch activity must not have access to indoor Red Zone areas and any interaction with First Team Players and Football Staff must be limited, be outdoors and socially distanced where possible.

Guidance

Where Clubs deem they are able to facilitate a Child Mascot and other pitch activity they should consider what additional mitigations they may need to put in place.

9. Each Home Club must ensure that no individual as listed at paragraph 8 above, may access the Red Zone on a matchday unless they have satisfactorily passed a screening protocol including at least the following measures:
- i. A screening protocol to detect symptoms of COVID-19 infection that as a minimum contains the information at Appendix I of the First Team Training Protocol (and/or any subsequent or replacement guidance issued by the EFL), in a manner devised by the Club Doctor (which will include a medical questionnaire).
 - ii. The individual has complied with Government guidance regarding self-isolation and quarantine requirements.
10. Where an individual outlined at point 8 (above) confirms via the screening protocol that they are currently experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 as listed at Appendix I of the First Team Training Protocol they must not access the Stadium.
11. Clubs must procure that those individuals required to complete a screening protocol in accordance with paragraph 9 do so accurately. Failure to procure that those individuals record their symptoms accurately will constitute a breach of this Protocol and the Club will be guilty of Misconduct for the purpose of the Regulations.

12. Where a Club fails to maintain an accurate record of the individual screening protocols at paragraph 9 above, this will constitute a breach of this protocol and Misconduct for the purpose of the Regulations.
13. Any Visiting Club that permits access to the Red Zone by a representative of its Club (whether a Player, member of Staff or guest) who does not meet the criteria set out in paragraphs 8, 9, 10 and 11 above, will be in breach of this Protocol and the EFL Regulations.

Venue Operations & Controls

14. Each Home Club must develop, monitor and enforce an accreditation process that limits access to the Red Zone, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 8, above.
15. In all areas outside the Red Zone and Purple Zone, each Club must ensure that it complies with all applicable Government guidance in relation to:
 - i. social distancing
 - ii. use of face coverings
 - iii. the preparation of food and beverages
 - iv. congregation in indoor spaces
 - v. the provision of hand sanitisation facilities
16. Each Club must ensure that it complies with all applicable Government guidance in relation to:
 - i. use of hotels and other accommodation prior to and following the League Match
 - ii. transport to and from the League Match

Guidance

Whilst as a minimum Clubs must comply with Government requirements, they may also wish to introduce their own measures and mitigations based on their own COVID-19 risk assessments.

Each Club should review its list of individuals as listed at paragraph 8iv (above) periodically, to identify those individuals deemed to be essential to the operation of the Red Zone.

Supporters

16. A Club may only stage a League Match with Supporters at its Stadium during Season 2021/22 where:
 - i. permission has been granted by the relevant SAG for the staging of such a League Match with Supporters in attendance and a safety certificate issued for that purpose
 - ii. in doing so, the Club complies at all times with:
 - a. the terms of that safety certificate
 - b. the SGSA Guidance (a breach of which shall constitute a breach of Matchday Protocol)
 - c. this Matchday Protocol

17. Each Home Club must ensure that prior to their attendance at a League Match, each Supporter has:
 - i. complied with such directions as issued by the League regarding
 - a. Covid-19 status certification
 - b. the provision of information necessary to enable the Club to facilitate the Government's 'Test and Trace' system
 - ii. agree to be bound and comply with the Code of Conduct

C. RED PROTOCOL

18. In the event of either:
- i. A Club experiencing an outbreak
 - ii. The imposition of new Government restrictions (whether imposed at a local or national level) in response to an escalation in the public health risks posed by COVID-19 (whether due to the emergence of a new variant of COVID-19, an increase in the COVID-19 infection rate or otherwise),

The League may implement such measures as it considers necessary to enhance the bio-security of the Red Zone; protect the safety of Players and Football Staff; minimise the spread of COVID-19 among Players and Football Staff so far as possible, ensure the safe and fair completion of the Competition and maintain Government and stakeholder support for the continuation of League matches involving the Club (RED Protocol).

19. Where the League determines that a Club needs to be subject to the RED Protocol, the League will notify the Club of the requirement to move to the RED Protocol along with the specific requirements that the Club must comply with. The Club will be required to comply with the requirements of the RED Protocol immediately. Failure to do so will constitute a breach of this Protocol and EFL Regulations.

Guidance

Clubs may wish to implement the RED protocol in the event of an outbreak at an early stage particularly until the point where COVID-19 restrictions are fully lifted in the community.

20. While the specifics of an RED Protocol will be for the League (at its absolute discretion) to determine, for the avoidance of doubt, they will include all of the following:
- i. a regime for testing (either PCR or lateral flow or other) of Players, Football Staff and other Staff with access to the Red Zone
 - ii. restrictions on the attendance of Supporters (including limitation on attendance of Supporters of the Visiting Club)
 - iii. restrictions on the use of indoor spaces within the Stadium
 - iv. restriction on the preparation and service of food and beverages
 - v. restrictions on manual therapy by Staff
 - vi. restrictions on the use of showering or bathing facilities, ice baths and/or cryogenic chambers

- vii. defined limits on numbers in the Red Zone and/or reduced numbers in (or cessation of) the Purple Zone
- viii. requirements to modify facilities (including changing rooms and trainers' benches) to enable social distancing among Players and Football Staff
- ix. requirements in respect of personal protective equipment
- x. additional monitoring measures to ensure compliance with the Protocols

Guidance

While any decision as to the imposition and nature of the RED Protocols will be at the discretion of the League, prior to taking any such decision it will procure advice from the EFL Medical Advisors and consult with the relevant Club.

Whilst there is no formal AMBER Protocol, Clubs may, at their own discretion, implement additional measures and mitigations based on the outcome of their own risk assessment

- 21. Where the League implements RED Protocols in respect of any Club:
 - i. They will be time-limited and subject to regular review by the League to ensure that they continue to be necessary and proportionate
 - ii. The Club subject to the RED Protocol must comply with them in all respects. Failure to do so will constitute a breach of this Protocol and EFL Regulations.

D. APPENDIX I

Guidance

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this guidance document is to provide Clubs with information to support the practical application of their obligations around COVID-19 for First Team matchday delivery under GREEN Protocols.

This guidance should be read in conjunction with the First Team Matchday Protocol which sets out obligations binding on Clubs, the principles that will determine the safe and successful delivery of EFL competition and the terms that are applied throughout the document.

Under the GREEN Protocol, we see as close to a return to 'normal' match day operations as possible with First Team Players and Football Staff operating in a secure Red Zone. However, Clubs should have contingency plans in place to revert to RED Protocols should the need arise. It is anticipated that in these circumstances there will be restricted numbers of Supporters in the Stadium so any requirements for social distancing of dressing room facilities and team benches should be easily accommodated.

As defined within the First Team Matchday Protocol introduction, if a League Match is required to be played at a neutral venue, the League and the two participating Clubs will enter into good faith discussions to determine who assumes the obligations imposed on the Home Club in the Matchday Protocol.

The guidance covers considerations for Clubs in addition to the obligations across core areas of Matchday delivery, including: Security Operation, Venue Operations and Control, Matchday Procedures and Broadcast and Media and is intended to be a live document with updates made when policy changes.

Part One – Pre-Matchday Preparations

COVID-19 Stadium Operations Officer

Each Club should have a designated Covid-19 Stadium Operations Officer who may be the same as the Clubs designated Covid-19 Officer who shall be responsible for the oversight of the risk and mitigation planning, communicating information to all user groups and ensuring the necessary standards are met in relation to the playing of First Team Matches.

Safety Certificate

Clubs must ensure they have a Safety Certificate in place and that a copy has been provided to the League in advance of their first Home League fixture.

It is important that Clubs are fully engaged with their local authority and Director of Public Health through their SAG to ensure that they have the maximum opportunity to discuss and plan their approach to matchday operations. As advised, should any Club encounter any significant issues that they cannot resolve locally, which may lead to a potential reduction in capacity, or affect your ability to accommodate away fans in line with the requirements of the Regulations, please let the EFL Football Services Department know by emailing clubrelationships@efl.com.

Operational Plan

The operational plan for the ground should be revised to consider the impact of both GREEN and RED Protocols on the matchday operations.

Whilst as a minimum Clubs must comply with Government requirements, they may also wish to introduce their own measures and mitigations based on their own COVID-19 risk assessments.

A map of the stadium defining all areas/zones, routes and access and egress points should be produced. This should clearly set out the Red and Purple zones; and areas outside of these.

Clubs should establish a security plan that ensures access to the Red Zone is only granted to Cleared Individuals. Security management should monitor, record and quality assure adherence to the Matchday Protocol.

Risk Assessments

All aspects of the operational plan should be fully risk assessed taking into consideration the First Team Matchday Protocols and any applicable Government guidance.

Clubs have previously been provided with an Occupation Health Risk Assessment Template. It is suggested this document is used as an informal resource for Clubs to build upon and modify in the preparation of their COVID-19 Stadium Risk Assessment.

Medical Plan

A full medical plan will need to be produced that includes aspects relating to Covid-19. Advice and guidance in this respect should be sought from the relevant medical authorities including the Clubs own medical team. As a minimum, these should include the following:

- process for self-reporting/self-declaration
- process for staff displaying symptoms / provision of isolation room
- self-isolation policy
- hygiene policies and procedures
- minimum medical staff required (both on pitch and off pitch)
- equipment required on site – including first aid facilities / ambulances where required under the Regulations etc.
- PPE requirements including donning and doffing areas and safe disposal of used PPE

Stadium Cleaning

Clubs should follow the Government guidance cleaning guidelines for non-healthcare settings: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings>

Clubs are reminded of the EFL's partnership with Lifebuoy. The Lifebuoy Order Portal is now live for all EFL clubs to use. As part of their partnership, Lifebuoy are offering all 72 clubs £500 free credit as well as heavily reduced rates on sanitisation products to support the safe return of fans. Please follow this link to access the site - <https://www.lifebuoy2u.co.uk/efl/>

Contingencies

Appropriate consideration should be given to contingency measures, particularly in the event that Clubs are required to operate under RED Protocols or if key personnel present at the stadium displaying Covid-19 symptoms.

Accreditation

A strict accreditation process should be put in place that ensures only staff relevant to the Red Zone gain access.

Staff & Contractors

Information should be provided to all staff members with regard to processes and protocols in place.

Screening of all individuals with Red Zone access, prior to entry into the stadium, should be in place. This should include a Covid-19 symptom questionnaire and self-declaration that they have complied with Government guidance regarding self-isolation and quarantine requirements as detailed in the Matchday Protocol.

Clubs should provide advice and support in relation to mental health and well-being that can be accessed by all staff.

If providing food to staff members, this should be provided in accordance with Government guidelines.

Considerations should be made to relay information on aspects of the above to contractors in advance. Clubs should also confirm any individual protocols contractors have in place to meet their minimum guidelines within the Stadium.

Clubs and broadcaster/contractors should work together to ensure that risk assessments are shared, required access is available and screening protocols are applied.

COUNTER TERRORISM

The threat to the UK from terrorism is Substantial, which means an attack is likely.

There is no direct threat against the football industry, but there is against all crowded places. Due to this a number of measures have been put in place at stadia across the UK and all clubs have match day Counter Terrorism plans in place.

Clubs are advised to review their plans for security of building, protection of players, search regimes (prior to fixtures and people entering the stadium).

Matchday Operations

Whilst a great deal of work will go into the pre-matchday stadium operations, there are a number of protocols that will only be implemented on the match day itself.

Staffing (Red Zone)

Each Club should review its list of individuals with Red Zone access periodically, to identify those individuals deemed to be essential to the operation of the Red Zone.

It is for Clubs to manage numbers within their Red Zone on a matchday following their own risk assessments. Clubs should inform the Visiting Club in advance of the maximum numbers they can accommodate in the Red Zone under their Risk Assessment. This should be as equitable as possible across both Clubs. Clubs will be required to provide as a minimum the following individuals with Red Zone access:

Group	Cleared Individuals	Total Zone Access	Description
Playing Staff	Players per team	No Limit	All playing staff required for match day
	Coaching/Medical/Football Staff per team	No Limit	All coaching and medical staff required for match day
Matchday Staff	Security/Stewarding/Stadium Infrastructure	No Limit	Home Club to risk assess on an individual basis.
Media	Club Media per team	6	3 x Home Club Reps , 3 x Away Club Reps
Officials	Match Officials	6	To include the Observer & Coach
Doping Control	Doping Control Officer	6	Up to a maximum of 6
Hawkeye	Hawkeye Operatives	2	Should maintain social distance.
EFL Live Matches	Host Broadcaster	4	Floor Manager, Stedi-Cam Operator & Assistant, Camera 3 Operator - all should maintain social distance. Live Matches Only.
	Match Manager	1	Should maintain social distance. Live Matches Only
	HD Signs	2	Staff to put out live match assets - all should maintain social distance. Live Matches Only

Entrances & Exits

It is recommended that there are separate entry and exit points for the Red Zone.

Arrival Screening

Clubs should ensure that all personnel with access to the Red Zone have undertaken a screening process to detect symptoms of COVID-19 infection and that the individual has complied with Government guidance regarding self-isolation and quarantine requirements.

PPE

Clubs should follow Government guidance in relation to the wearing of face coverings and other PPE.

Dressing Rooms

We expect that Clubs will revert to their 'normal' changing room facilities save always that Clubs should follow any applicable Government guidance.

Clubs should have contingency plans in place should they be required to operate under RED Protocols.

Players' Tunnel

The Players' Tunnel should form part of the Red Zone and only individuals with Red Zone access should be permitted entry.

Any staff member operating within this area who does not form part of the First Team Training Ground Protocols should maintain social distancing from First Team Players and Football Staff at all times where possible.

There is no longer any requirement from the EFL for Clubs to stagger walk-out.

Team Benches / Technical Area

The Team bench / Technical Area should form part of the Red Zone and only individuals with Red Zone access should be permitted entry.

We expect that Clubs will revert to their 'normal' Team Benches save always that Clubs should follow any applicable Government guidance.

Clubs should have contingency plans in place should they be required to operate under RED Protocols.

Any staff member operating within this area who does not form part of the First Team Training Ground Protocols should maintain social distancing from First Team Players and Football Staff at all times where possible.

Accommodation & Transport

Clubs must ensure they comply with all applicable Government guidance in relation to:

- iii. use of hotels and other accommodation prior to and following the League Match
- iv. transport to and from the League Match

The EFL may request seating and/or room plans on request in order to identify any close contacts following a COVID-19 outbreak within a Club.

Goal Line Technology

Goal line technology will be in place for all Championship fixtures. Hawkeye operatives will require access to the Red Zone and will maintain social distancing at all times.

Doping Control Facility

We are currently liaising with the FA and UKAD in relation to what Clubs are required to provide and will provide details in the final version of this document.

Ball Retrieval

The EFL does not utilise a multi-ball system in any of its League matches.

We expect that Clubs will revert to their 'normal' ball retrieval practices on matchday with social distancing maintained between ball retrieval staff and Players.

Furry Mascots

Furry Mascots are permitted to operate on matchday save always that Clubs should follow any applicable Government guidance.

Furry Mascots should retain social distance from First Team Players and Football Staff at all times.

Child Mascots

Clubs must undertake their own risk assessments in relation to the use of Child Mascots on matchday and follow any applicable Government guidance. Where Clubs deem they are able to facilitate a Child Mascot they should consider what additional mitigations they may need to put in place.

Child Mascots and their families must not have access to indoor Red Zone areas and any interaction with First Team Players and Football Staff should be limited and preferably be outdoors and socially distanced where possible.

Pitch Activities

Clubs must undertake their own risk assessments in relation to other pitch activities and follow any applicable Government guidance.

Any interaction with First Team Players and Football Staff should be avoided where possible but where not, should be limited and be outdoors and socially distanced.

Team Sheet Exchange & Briefing

A representative of each Club must hand copies of a list of names of Players taking part in the game (including the name of the nominated substitute or substitutes) ('Team Sheet') to the Referee and a representative of the opponents in the presence of the Referee 75 minutes before kick-off.

At least 60 (sixty) minutes before the advertised time of kick-off of a match either the Captain; or the person in charge of the team on the day (i.e. the Manager or Assistant Manager); or another senior representative of the coaching staff, shall attend a briefing with the referee.

Participant Behaviour

The League is currently updating the briefing on Participant Behaviour. This will be circulated to Clubs separately.

Post Match

Interaction between Players and Football Staff; and supporters in the stand should be discouraged.

Socially distanced post-match interviews will take place in indoor areas. Where this is not possible designated pitch-side interview areas should be used area.

Club Staff will only be permitted to enter the Match Official's Dressing Room from 30 minutes after the match. Club feedback can also be provided via MOAS.

Commercial

EFL Match Managers will be present at televised matches and require Red Zone access. They will maintain social distancing at all times

A risk assessment of their duties will be provided prior to match day which will need to be checked and returned to the Match Manager, along with any relevant Club protocols to be followed and approval from the Club that the Match Manager can attend. The process must be completed prior to any visit to the Club being undertaken.

Centre circle mats, line-up backdrops and ball plinths will be used at live matches where possible. HD Signs will be on site to facilitate the placement of these assets and will be in touch prior to each live match to arrange Red Zone access. They will provide their own Risk Assessment for Club review and will maintain social distancing at all times.

Both moveable perspex and static interview backdrops will be provided to each club for use in indoor and/or outdoor areas. These backdrops must be used for all pre- and post-match interviews.

i-PBS Accreditation System

- Media and Broadcast will be able to apply for accreditation via the i-PBS and Clubs will be able to accept or decline media requests as usual.
- Via i-PBS, Media and Broadcast will be able to request access to the Red Zone and/or Purple Zone as required via the Comment function – entry will be permitted at the **Club's discretion** on the basis that the representative has met the criteria detailed within the 2021-22 First Team Matchday Protocol, including:
 - Satisfactorily passed a screening protocol to detect symptoms of COVID-19 infection as per the 2021-22 First Team Matchday Protocol
 - Completed a Self-Declaration Form to state they have received and agree to be bound by the **Club's COVID-19 Stadium Operations Policy**.
- Via the accreditation system, Media will be able to request access to a Virtual Post-Match Press Conference (VPMPC) – should a Club be facilitating their Post-Match Press Conference virtually – the system will prompt the applicant to provide the email address of the media representative who requires access to the VPMPC.
- Access to the VPMPC will be decided by Clubs
- An automated accreditation response will go to the accredited media via the i-PBS
- Accreditation should be collected on site, via a dedicated collection point
- Accredited representatives should download the i-PBS mobile app which will be used to verify identity **at a club's media entrance**
- Clubs should ensure media are provided with the **Club's COVID-19 Stadium Operations Policy** by 5pm, two days out from the match i.e. (5pm on Thursday for a Saturday 3pm match). This should include:
 - A map outlining access and egress points, accreditation collection points, parking and Zoning for media
 - A Self-Declaration form to be completed to state that they have received and agree to be **bound by the Club's COVID-19 Stadium Operations Policy**.
- The Self-Declaration form must be signed and returned to Clubs prior to entry to the Stadium

The i-PBS online accreditation system will continue to manage Broadcast and Media accreditation; however, the accessible zones will be amended to reflect the new working restrictions.

The key changes are as follows:

- Stadium access to be reinstated
- Pitchside access to be reinstated
- Gantry, TV Studio and Press Box remain as operational zones (no zoning required)
- Interview Area access (indoors) (Purple Zone)
- Pitchside Presentation Position (Purple Zone)
- Press Conference, Press Lounge, Observation Seat to be reinstated

The i-PBS will install a Red and Purple zoning system through the addition of Special Access Dispensations (SAD) pass, which can be printed from the system alongside the standard matchday pass.

Media Arrangements (to be read in conjunction with the Media Protocol at Appendix 2)

Clubs will be required to operate a Purple Zone and will need to produce a risk assessment to identify the maximum numbers for indoor interview areas.

Where, due to the configuration of the Stadium, it is not possible to facilitate pre- and/or post-match interviews in a socially distanced way indoors (i.e. with social distance maintained between Players & Football Staff and non-Players & Football Staff), such interviews must be conducted in an outdoor pitchside presentation position.

The protocols in respect of the Media are available at Appendix 2 of this document.

Host Broadcaster Access to Red Zone

Clubs will be required to provide access to the Red Zone for the Floor Manager, Stedi-Cam Operator & Assistant for all live matches.

In addition, Clubs must make available for all live broadcast selected fixtures (Sky, IMG and / or Pitch) a pitchside position for Camera 3 to operate from within the red zone on a sheffield plate or tripod. Camera 3 is usually positioned in front of the LED / Ad boards close to the technical area, however the exact location may vary.

Ideally the end of the camera lens should be 1.5 metres from the side line and in turn the camera operator will be more than 2 metre away from the playing surface, ensuring a safe working distance is adhered to. The camera will be rigged and in position before the Players enter the pitch.

Clubs and the broadcaster should work together to make available a suitable access and egress point to enable the Operator to take a comfort / bathroom break.

E. APPENDIX II

MEDIA PROTOCOLS

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A. INTRODUCTION

Overview

Despite the relaxation of the majority of Government restrictions relating to COVID-19, it remains critical that Clubs mitigate against the risk of the spread of the virus amongst their players, staff, media and supporters.

The terms of the EFL's 2021-22 First Team Matchday Protocol must be adhered to as part of the Clubs' matchday media operation. The media operation should form part of Clubs' Multi-disciplinary Risk Assessments.

Following the same principles of the 2021-22 First Team Training and Matchday Protocols, these Matchday Media Protocols are split into the following:

GREEN Protocols

RED Protocols

Under the GREEN Protocol, matchday operations can operate in line with the relaxation of Government restrictions, though their remains the need for caution and, as per the 2021-22 First Team Matchday Protocols, Risk Assessments will be required to mitigate against the spread of the virus.

To facilitate a return to some pre-COVID media operations, this season Clubs will be required to operate a Purple Zone for the purpose of pre-and-post match interviews. Further details on the Purple Zone are detailed below.

Clubs should have contingency plans in place to revert to RED Protocols should the need arise (i.e. the COVID-19 situation deteriorates, whether as a result of an outbreak, the spread of a new variant or otherwise), with guidance to support these plans detailed below.

As such, measures for the optimisation of social distancing and all Government recommended hygiene measures should be included within matchday media operation plans.

Clubs will need to mitigate against the spread of the virus based on their own facilities and will need to work with their designated COVID-19 Stadium Operations Officer to provide a safe media operation that facilitates the requirements as set out in EFL Regulations.

Whilst as a minimum Clubs must comply with Government requirements, Clubs may also wish to introduce their own measures and mitigations based on their own COVID-19 Risk Assessments.

Media Organisations may request access to Risk Assessments/Policy or conduct their own for staff attending stadia on matchdays.

The below protocols are provided to support Clubs in forming their operational plans for the new season.

B. GREEN PROTOCOL

Zoning

Red Zone

- As per the terms of the First Team Matchday Protocol, the Red Zone should become active at least three-and-a-half hours before kick-off.
- Red Zone access can be requested and should be provided to a minimum of three Club media staff (per Club)
 - Should the Home Club's Risk Assessment allow, Clubs are permitted to allow further Club media staff into the Red Zone (when working under GREEN protocols).
 - The number of Club Media staff permitted into the Red Zone is a matter for the Home Club to decide as part of their Risk Assessment.
 - While the minimum requirement of three Club media staff (per Club) is set out as a general rule, Home Clubs who cannot facilitate these numbers safely as per their Risk Assessment should enter into good faith discussions with their opponent, providing sufficient notice to allow for the Away Club to plan their media operation.
- As detailed under 'Media Numbers' below, a small number of broadcast staff should be permitted to the Red Zone for fixtures selected for live broadcast
- Red Zone access is only permitted to personnel who have:
 - Satisfactorily passed a Club's screening protocol to detect symptoms of COVID-19 infection as per the 2021-22 First Team Matchday Protocol
 - Completed a Self-Declaration form to state that they have received and agree to be bound by the Club's COVID-19 Stadium Operations Policy.
- As per the terms of the First Team Matchday Protocol, Home Clubs must ensure that access the Red Zone on a matchday is not permitted unless individuals have satisfactorily passed a screening protocol
- A strict accreditation process should be put in place that ensures only staff relevant and essential to the Red Zone gain access
- Any staff member operating within this area who does not form part of the First Team Training Ground Protocols (i.e. non-Players and Football Staff) should maintain social distancing from First Team Players and Football Staff.
- Clubs should review the list of individuals with access to the Red Zone who are deemed as essential to the media operation, periodically.
- Despite the relaxation of restrictions, it is recommended – save for those exempt – that PPE is worn by media staff in indoor settings in the Red Zone

Guidance

Self-Declaration forms agreeing to be bound by the Club's COVID-19 Stadium Operations Policy are not required to be submitted on a game-by-game basis. Once a Media Representative has submitted their form to the Club, they do not have to do this for future matches unless the Policy changes. As per the terms of the First Team Matchday Protocol, the COVID-19 Stadium Operations Policy should include guidance as to the process by which the Cleared Individual can opt out of the policy at a later date, should they chose to do so.

Purple Zone

- As per the 2021-22 Matchday Protocols, the Purple Zone is an indoor area:
 - For pre-match interviews and essential pre-match activity
 - For post-match interviews with broadcast media and Post Match Press Conferences, where possible
 - In which representatives of broadcasters entitled to be present in the Stadium in line with Regulations must be located
 - Which is in close proximity to the Red Zone
- Access to the Purple Zone should be limited to:
 - Essential personnel for the facilitation of pre- and post-match media activity

- A maximum number of personnel for indoor interview areas as per Club Risk Assessment
- Only those personnel who have:
 - Completed a Self-Declaration form to state that they have received and agree to be bound by the Club's COVID-19 Stadium Operations Policy.
- A strict accreditation process should be put in place that ensures only staff relevant and essential to the Purple Zone gain access.
- Like the Red Zone, the Purple Zone should become active at least three-and-a-half hours before kick-off.
- Contact between First Team Players and Football Staff and Matchday Personnel (Media) should be socially distanced.
- Whilst most broadcast interviews (TV/Radio) can take place in the designated Purple Zone, with social distancing practiced, it may be more challenging for Clubs to facilitate indoor, socially-distanced Press Conferences for the written media
- Where within Risk Assessments it is deemed that an in person Post-Match Press Conference cannot be facilitated safely, Clubs can choose to host a Virtual Post-Match Press Conference (VPMPC) as per the 2019-20 and 2020-21 seasons.
- As below under 'Post-Match Media':
 - Clubs have the option to host Virtual Post Match Press Conferences, should this be preferential
 - The Home Club should advise the Away Club of their Post-Match Media procedures at least 24 hours prior to kick-off to allow for the Away Club to adapt their approach as necessary

Clubs will be provided with both moveable perspex and static interview backdrops for use in indoor and/or outdoor areas. These backdrops must be used for all pre- and post-match interviews (broadcast).

Where, due to the configuration of the Stadium, it is not possible to facilitate pre- and/or post-match interviews in a socially distanced way within the Purple Zone (indoors) - i.e. with social distancing maintained between Players & Football Staff and non-Players & Football Staff - such interviews must be conducted in an outdoor pitchside presentation position.

Guidance

Media (both external and Club) should optimise social distancing in the Purple Zone to avoid close contact with Players and/or Football Staff. A screening protocol for the Purple Zone isn't a requirement under the Matchday Media Protocols, though Clubs may wish to introduce their own measures and mitigations based on their own COVID-19 Risk Assessments.

Accreditation

- Media and Broadcast will be able to apply for accreditation via the i-PBS and Clubs will be able to accept or decline media requests as usual.
- Via i-PBS, Media and Broadcast will be able to request access to the Red Zone and/or Purple Zone as required via the Comment function – entry will be permitted at Club's discretion on the basis that the representative has met the criteria detailed within the 2021-22 First Team Matchday Protocol, including:
 - Satisfactorily passed a screening protocol to detect symptoms of COVID-19 infection as per the 2021-22 First Team Matchday Protocol
 - Completed a Self-Declaration form to state that they have received and agree to be bound by the Club's COVID-19 Stadium Operations Policy.
- Via the accreditation system, Media will still be able to request access to a Virtual Post-Match Press Conference (VPMPC) – the system will prompt the applicant to provide the email address of the media representative who requires access to the VPMPC.
- Access to the VPMPC will be decided by Clubs
- An automated accreditation response will go to accredited media via the i-PBS
- Accreditation should be collected on site, via a dedicated collection point
- Accredited representatives should download the i-PBS mobile app which will be used to verify identity at a club's media entrance
- Clubs should ensure media are provided with the Club's COVID-19 Stadium Operations Policy by 5pm, two days out from the match i.e. (5pm on Thursday for a Saturday 3pm match). This should include:
 - A map outlining access and egress points, accreditation collection points, parking and Zoning for media

- A Self-Declaration form to be completed to state that they have received and agree to be bound by the Club's COVID-19 Stadium Operations Policy.
- The Self-Declaration form must be signed and returned to Clubs prior to entry to the Stadium

The i-PBS online accreditation system will continue to manage Broadcast and Media accreditation; however, the accessible zones will be amended to reflect the new working restrictions.

The key changes are as follows:

- Stadium access to be reinstated
- Pitchside access to be reinstated
- Gantry, TV Studio and Press Box remain as operational zones (no zoning required)
- Interview Area access (indoors) (Purple Zone)
- Pitchside Presentation Position (Purple Zone)
- Press Conference, Press Lounge, Observation Seat to be reinstated

The i-PBS will install a Red and Purple zoning system through the addition of Special Access Dispensations (SAD) pass, which can be printed from the system alongside the standard matchday pass.

An additional Tunnel Rigging SAD will be added to the system and all other SADs will be removed. Please note that all rigging in the Red Zone must be completed 3.5 hours before Kick-Off.

Health Checks

- Media with access to the Red Zone must satisfactorily pass a screening protocol to detect symptoms of COVID-19 infection as per the 2021-22 First Team Matchday Protocol.
- All Media Personnel must also complete a Self-Declaration Form to state that they have received and agree to be bound by the Club's COVID-19 Stadium Operations Policy.
- Provisions should be made so any media who develop COVID-19 symptoms on site on Matchday can access a dedicated Isolation Room, as per the 2021-22 First Team Match Day Protocols.

Clinically Extremely Vulnerable Persons

As per the terms of the First Team Matchday Protocol, an appropriate risk assessment should be conducted for individuals that are deemed to be clinically (extremely) vulnerable, especially if they haven't or can't be vaccinated (in line with Government guidance)

Employers may wish to carry out their own Risk Assessment or to view Club Risk Assessments as part of this provision.

Security

- In line with Stadium Regulations, Media bag and 'pat down' checks should be facilitated at the point of entry
- Media should be instructed to not bring oversized bags where possible
- Media should open their own bags and show the contents of their bag under instruction from security staff
- Photo identification should be produced on collection of match day accreditation to ensure the appropriate personnel access the stadium.

Media Numbers

While the numbers permitted to the Press Box are subject to Clubs' wider Risk Assessments, there is a minimum requirement for Rights Holder media as below – in exceptional circumstances where minimum Rights Holder numbers cannot be met, Clubs should enter into good faith discussions with the League and Media Organisation to find a solution.

The League recommends social distancing is maintained in Press Boxes, where possible.

Rights Holders

- Club Media
 - Clubs should permit a minimum of four Club media representatives (inc. commentators) to the Press Box
 - Clubs should also permit a minimum of one Club Photographer per Club

- Data Partners
 - 2x Betgenius (minimum)
 - 1x Opta (minimum)
- Talksport
- 3x (Live Commentary Fixtures) (minimum)
- 1x (Non-Commentary Fixtures) (minimum)

BBC Radio / Independent Radio will have agreements with the majority of EFL Clubs and should be provided for as a minimum as follows:

- BBC – National (x1)
- BBC – Home Club (x2), Away Club (x2)
- Independent Radio – (x2) – where requested

Non-Rights Holders

To ensure strong coverage for EFL competitions, the League recommends that Clubs endeavour to facilitate written media (local and national) from the remaining numbers permitted within individual Risk Assessments.

If numbers are limited, Clubs should only look to permit one person per media title.

Matches Selected for Live Broadcast

Provided they meet the criteria to enter the Red Zone as set out in the Matchday Protocol and pass the Club's screening within the Club's Risk Assessment, the following individuals should be permitted to the Red Zone for fixtures selected for live broadcast:

- 1x Floor Manager
- 1x Stedi-cam Operator
- 1x Stedi-cam Assistant
- 1x Match Manager
- 2x HD Signs Staff – to put out live match assets (must socially distance)

Note: The above numbers are still to be confirmed, though should they change, they will only be subject to a slight increase – this will be communicated in a finalised document in due course.

Goal Line Technology

Goal line technology will be in place for all Championship fixtures. Hawkeye operatives will require access to the Red Zone and will maintain social distancing at all times.

Travel

As per the terms of the 2021-22 First Team Matchday Protocol, each Club must ensure that it complies with all applicable Government guidance in relation to transport to and from the League Match.

- Where possible, it is recommended that media travel to matches alone
- Clubs should provide accredited media with access to parking, where possible
- Should media travel to matches via public transport, guidance on public transport should be followed in relation to both social distancing and PPE.

Hygiene

- Clubs should follow the Government guidance cleaning guidelines for non-healthcare settings: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings>

This should include:

- Providing handwashing facilities and hand sanitiser in locations in which the Media are situated
- Ensuring that where Food and Drink is provided to Press, handwashing facilities and hand sanitiser are provided

- Ensure that handwashing and hand sanitiser facilities are checked and refilled regularly

Opening/Closing Times

- While opening times should be at the discretion of each Club, media should be encouraged to enter the Stadium before supporter arrivals to reduce contact
- Media with access to the Red Zone/Purple Zone should endeavour to arrive at the Stadium in advance of supporter arrivals to reduce contact
- Media with access to the Red Zone should arrive to allow time for the completion of a Club's screening protocol
- Again, the closing of press facilities will be at the discretion of each Club, in line with their respective Risk Assessments, though press facilities should be accessible for media for a minimum of two hours after the final whistle

Press Room / Media Facilities

- Press Lounges are permitted to be opened under operating guidelines set out in Club Risk Assessments
- As part of Risk Assessments, maximum capacities should be set for Press Lounges
- The League recommends PPE (face coverings) to be worn in indoor settings and social distancing to be applied where possible
- The provision of food and drink within Press Lounges is also a matter for Clubs to determine within their Risk Assessments, though bottled water should be made available to media personnel.
- Provisions should be in place to ensure adequate ventilation in indoor settings such as the Press Lounge
- Clubs should make provisions to ensure usual minimum standards are met in relation to Wi-Fi and Desks, so press attending Virtual Post Match Press Conferences can do so from the Press Box (outside) where preferred and/or appropriate.

Pre-Match Media

- Pre-match media activity should take place within the Purple Zone and should be restricted to essential/rights-holders
- There should be no pre-match media activity with non-rights holders on matchday
- Where necessary, non-rights holder media should have access to the content of rights holder interviews
- Team sheets should be produced digitally where possible and where a paper teamsheet is produced, the distributor should wear appropriate PPE (gloves).

Post-Match Media

- Club and Rights Holder (Broadcast) interviews to take place in person in the Purple Zone, where possible
- Where, due to the configuration of the Stadium, it is not possible to facilitate post-match interviews in a socially distanced way within the Purple Zone (indoors) - i.e. with social distance maintained between Players & Football Staff and non-Players & Football Staff) - such interviews must be conducted in an outdoor pitchside presentation position
- Post-Match Press Conferences can take place physically within the Purple Zone, though maximum numbers, social distancing and adequate ventilation should all be considered as part of Risk Assessments
- Where within Risk Assessments it is not deemed safe to conduct Post-Match Press Conferences in the Purple Zone, they should take place virtually, giving access to both those at the game and those accredited media who choose not to attend the game but wish to attend the press conference via video link
- Clubs have the option to host Virtual Post Match Press Conferences, should this be preferential
- The Home Club should advise the Away Club of their Post-Match Media procedures at least 24 hours prior to kick-off to allow for the Away Club to adapt their approach as necessary
- Clubs should manage individual agreements (i.e. with BBC local radio) as required, but with consideration to the above factors
- Managers should conduct their post-match media conference within 30 minutes of the final whistle.

Photographers

- Photographers to apply as per the usual process with accreditation at the Clubs discretion based on the numbers permitted within Risk Assessments
- Those numbers should include a minimum of:
 - 1x Home Club
 - 1x Away Club
 - 1x Shutterstock (EFL Agency Partner)
 - 6x Agency/Publishers
- Photographers are not permitted to access the Red Zone, unless accredited by the Club in line with Red Zone protocols
- As per arrangements for Press Lounges as above, Photographers' Lounges at stadiums can be opened
- Pitchside internet access should be provided to Photographers

C. RED PROTOCOL

Where the League determines that a Club needs to be subject to the RED Protocol in accordance with the First Team Matchday and Training Protocols (i.e. local restrictions or an outbreak at the Club), the League will notify the Club of the requirement to move to the RED Protocol along with the specific requirements that the Club must comply with.

While any decision as to the imposition and nature of implementation of RED Protocols - as per the 2021-22 First Team Matchday Protocol - will be at the discretion of the League, prior to taking any such decision it will procure advice from the EFL Medical Advisors and consult with the relevant Club.

While the specifics of any RED Protocol will be for the League (at its absolute discretion) to determine, for the avoidance of doubt they will include all of the following:

- a regime for testing (either PCR or lateral flow or other) of Players, Football Staff and other Staff with access to the Red Zone
- restrictions on the attendance of Supporters (including limitation on attendance of Supporters of the Visiting Club)
- restrictions on the use of indoor spaces within the Stadium
- restriction on the preparation and service of food and beverages
- restrictions on manual therapy by Staff
- restrictions on the use of showering or bathing facilities, ice baths and/or cryogenic chambers
- defined limits on numbers in the Red Zone and/or reduced numbers in (or cessation of) the Purple Zone
- requirements to modify facilities (including changing rooms and trainers' benches) to enable social distancing among Players and Football Staff
- requirements in respect of personal protective equipment
- additional monitoring measures to ensure compliance with the Protocols

By way of example, the following processes are likely to be implemented under RED Protocols for the matchday media operation, many as per the 2020/21 season.

Red Zone

Red Zone access will be restricted to a **maximum** of two Club Media staff, with all personnel in the Red Zone requiring a negative COVID-19 test result (as per EFL guidance).

Purple Zone

Working under Red Protocols, the Purple Zone should only be in operation in an outdoor setting for essential activity to fulfil broadcast requirements only, while social distancing must also be practiced as per normal Purple Zone requirements.

All other media should take place virtually.

Media Numbers

Media numbers will be capped in line with 2020-21 Protocols, including:

- A maximum of 2x Club Media Staff per Club in the Red Zone
- Restrictions on Red Zone and on site staff for fixtures selected for live broadcast as per the 2020-21 season
- Data Partners:
 - 2x Betgenius
 - 1x Opta
- Talksport
 - 3x (Live Commentary Fixtures)

- 1x (Non-Commentary Fixtures)
- BBC Radio / Independent Radio (Maximum)
 - BBC – National (x1)
 - BBC – Home Club (x2), Away Club (x2)
 - Independent Radio – (x2)
- Non-rights holders (Maximum of one per media title) – Maximum of 20
- Maximum of 9 Photographers
 - 2x Club Photographer (One Home, One Away)
 - 1x Shutterstock (EFL Agency Partner)
 - 6x Agency/Publishers

The above would be used for guidance in the instance of RED protocols being implemented, with figures at Club discretion based on the facilities at their disposal and ensuring social distancing requirements can be maintained.

Media Room / Facilities

Press and Photographers' Lounges should be closed when Clubs are working under Red Protocols.

Save for providing media with bottled water, no other food or beverages should be provided to media. All working personnel should bring their own food (if required).

Press Box

- Social distancing should be in place throughout
- No cross-contamination between the Press Box and Red Zone should take place (Media staff who are in the Red Zone should be seated away from the Press Box)

Health Checks

- Media and photographers will be subject to a health screening before entry to the stadium is permitted.

Travel

- Media or photographers must not travel to the Stadium together, unless living in the same household, and should only use public transport for the journey to the Stadium where absolutely necessary and in line with Government guidance

Arrival Times

- Media and photographers should spend the minimal amount of time in the Stadium
- There should be a split approach upon arrival to avoid delays, for example:
 - KO –90 mins for accredited broadcast media
 - KO –75 mins for accredited written press
 - Access not permitted before these times
 - Photographer access permitted from KO -60 mins
- All media and photographers to either file offsite, or from their set position, to reduce the time spent inside the stadium
- Press facilities to be closed at Club discretion, but a maximum of 2.5 hours after the final whistle

Note: *Limited Club Media representatives are permitted entrance prior to the above times as deemed necessary.*

PPE

- Face coverings should be worn, save for Broadcasters whilst on air only.

IT

- Clubs should consider providing media with an IT 'hotline' to contact relevant members of the IT department, or ensure that the Club Media Contacts within the Press Box have contact details for IT support.