

**WELLAND GLIDING CLUB**  
**COVID RISK ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION**  
**VERSION 30/3/21**

Welland Gliding Club Committee is committed to providing a safe environment for all our members and visitors. The Covid Pandemic has given the committee additional challenges in maintaining that safe environment and have therefore undertaken a rigorous risk assessment before being able to deliver flight instruction, Trial Lessons and One Day Courses. The committee understand that the risks of contacting Covid-19 cannot be entirely eliminated but with adherence to the actions detailed in the risk assessment feel that the risks are mitigated sufficiently to allow a return to delivering flight instruction, trial lessons and one day courses, albeit on a restricted basis.

Carrying out instruction is a personal choice and some instructors may feel that for personal or vulnerability reasons they are unable to return to instructing at this time, the committee understands this and instructors should not feel that they have an obligation to continue delivering instruction until they are comfortable with the situation.

If further information is required, please contact the CFI or the club Safety Officer (Malcolm Johnson).

**WELLAND GLIDING CLUB RISK ASSESSMENT FOR CONDUCTING INSTRUCTION FLIGHTS AND VISITOR FLYING**

**Introduction**

This risk assessment document is for Welland Gliding Club (“WGC”) members and visitors with respect to instructional flying. It also applies to solo flying and ground support activities necessary for such. It identifies the risk associated with flying 2-seater gliders during the Coronavirus outbreak and what measures have been taken to minimise this risk. Members and visitors must also make their own risk assessment based on their level of vulnerability.

It is recognised that two persons occupying a glider cockpit present a significant risk of covid transmission. The flight crew will be in an enclosed space for varying periods of time and the crew occupy seats spaced less than two metres apart. Therefore, our risk mitigation measures are in accordance with the principles detailed by the Government for close contact services.

In completing this risk assessment, the following references have been consulted

BGA Guidance – covid and gliding operations, dated 27/11/20

HSE – coronavirus and working safely

UK Government – covid 19 and General Aviation guidance

**Basic Principles**

**Social Distancing** – Close proximity (<2 metres) should be minimised by doing things on your own (if safe to do so) in the first instance. If assistance is required then social distancing protocols shall be

adhered to. In the rare situations that close proximity is required, additional precautions (e.g. face coverings) should be used.

**Face Coverings** – When working in close proximity to the cockpit (e.g. during the DI and during flight) appropriate face coverings shall be worn. The exception shall be the case when glasses start to mist in flight, in which case the mask should be removed if necessary for safe conduct of the flight, and the flight terminated at the earliest opportunity.

**Hygiene – when handling equipment** – contact should be minimised in the first instance – equipment required to be touched should be cleansed and sanitised before the first use of the day, at every crew change, and then after last use of the day with appropriate cleaning materials, e.g. disinfectant wipes. The regular washing of hands or application of hand sanitiser is encouraged.

**Vulnerability considerations** – the potential vulnerability of both members of the flight crew is recognised. They must understand the risks and whether they can manage those to acceptable levels. If necessary, additional mitigations need to be put in place, including potentially taking the decision not to undertake the flight. Under 16s are deemed not to be in a position to apply this judgement themselves and covid-specific approval from a parent or Guardian having read this document must be in place before they attend and fly **Remember, no instructor is under any obligation to instruct.**

**Consideration** should be given to those using equipment after you, although it is the responsibility of the incoming operator to ensure sanitisation to their satisfaction is undertaken.

**Prior Exposure** – All members, instructors and visitors MUST comply with restrictions by not attending the club for at least 14 days after being in contact with someone with symptoms (who has not had a covid test), someone who has tested positive for covid or if they have had symptoms themselves. Quarantine rules for those returning from abroad – irrespective of whether this means home or hotel quarantine – must also be obeyed.

**Vaccination** Members or visitors who have been vaccinated are still capable of both transmitting and catching SARS Cov-19 and may not be immune to new strains and are not exempt from any mitigation procedure listed here

Hazard	Activity	Who is at risk ?	Mitigation	Mitigation Actionee
Club members and flying visitors may have been exposed to covid	Pre-visit activities	All on site	Club members to make covid declaration on arrival (see appendix 1). Flying visitors to confirm conformance to declaration by phone or email no more than 48 hours prior to booked day and reconfirm conformance on the day.	Duty Instructor  Trial lesson booking handler
Contact from handling currency	Payment	WGC Members	Payment for flights to be via electronic means	Trial lesson booking handler
Unnecessary contact with members	On site arrival of trial lesson customers	WGC members	Duty team to contact visitors in sufficient time to prevent unnecessary travel if weather or other circumstances render the flight unviable.	Duty team

			<p>Arrangements to be made for a nominated responsible person to meet arriving customers to minimise contact.</p> <p>Visitors to be asked to wear appropriate face covering and sanitise their hands or wear gloves before proceeding to launch point.</p>	
Accompanying visitors may have been exposed to covid		WGC members	Limit visitors to one visitor plus supervised under-12s until social distancing rules are removed	Duty Team
Exposure between cockpits	Flying	Instructor and student	Masks to be worn by both flight crew. Mask removal permitted to allow safe conclusion of the flight in the event of glasses misting. Note that there is no approved mod to isolate individual cockpits for the K13	Both flight crew
General ground operations	Support activities including site and aircraft prep, removal and return of gliders, batteries, radios and parachutes from hangar and store	WGC Members	<p>Minimise number of people involved in each activity.</p> <p>Ensure hands are sanitised or gloves worn before handling equipment.</p> <p>Sanitise surfaces touched after moving gliders from hangar (wingtips, cockpit, canopy etc).</p> <p>Only one person in any club vehicle unless absolutely necessary, then only 2 maximum. Try to space within the vehicle</p> <p>Windows open when sharing vehicle.</p> <p>Daily and flight briefings and post-flight debriefings to be conducted outside.</p> <p>Pilots to sanitise hands after donning parachute.</p> <p>Instructors to reserve one parachute for their personal use.</p> <p>Pilot to disinfect any surfaces potentially touched by previous occupant – instructor to clean such surfaces if P2 is a trial lesson visitor</p>	

			Person attaching cable is to remain clear until canopy is closed and then to distance as much as possible when attaching cable and doing release check  Canopy and DV panel to be closed as cable is hooked on	
In-cockpit communication	In flight instruction	Flight crew	Check before take-off that P1 and P2 can hear each other clearly. If not, abort the flight	Instructor and pupil
In-flight covid exposure	In flight instruction	Flight crew	Dual flights to be limited to 20 minutes until social distancing rules are ended or modified Instructors to limit themselves to maximum of 4 trainees per day to limit cross contamination risk	
Logbooks as covid vector	Pre and post flight	Instructor	Instructor not to touch logbooks or training cards. Instructor post-flight log book entry to be dictated and written down by student	Instructor and pupil
Indoor exposure	General	All on site	Access to clubhouse limited to essential tasks (e.g. equipment store and toilet access). Toilet users to wash and disinfect hands after use	All
Food and drink contamination risk	Club catering	All on site	Club catering to remain suspended until social distancing rules are eased	All

## Appendix 1

### Site Arrival Covid Declaration

All members and visitors to site are expected to be able to confirm that they can comply with the following statements relating to their covid status. The Duty Instructor or delegated member will require an oral declaration to that effect from all attendees.

Anyone intending to attend at Lyveden Airfield should ask themselves prior to leaving for the airfield that they are compliant.

#### DECLARATION

1. I have not been diagnosed with COVID at any time during the last 14 days prior to today
2. I have not had COVID-19 symptoms (fever, newly developed cough, loss of taste or smell, shortness of breath) at any time during the 8 days prior to today
3. I have not knowingly been in close contact with anyone who has COVID-19 (face to face contact within 1 metre for more than 15 minutes or direct physical contact) in the 14 days prior to today
4. I am not required by local or national regulations to be in quarantine for reasons related to COVID-19 for a period that includes today