



Safety Management System

Safety Bulletin

No. 04/22

July 2022

Covid Safety Policy Statement

The gliding community in Australia is well supported by a small group of paid employees, some working in the Broadmeadows office, others remotely from home. GAus and Regional Association also operate through the efforts of many volunteer officers, in diverse locations across Australia. As incorporated entities, we have obligations to ensure that reasonable precautions are applied to protect our people in these workplace environments. These obligations include application of Covid safety precautions.

Some clubs have also inquired about Covid safety and obligations in their local environments.

The attached document, GFA ADMIN 030 Covid Safety Policy Statement, provides policy guidance tailored to the current risk environment, with advice on basic precautions and additional precautions that may be required. Some comments on airborne activity and Covid health impacts on PICs are also provided.

The key Covid Safety Policy elements are:

- GAus workplaces and Clubs must comply with local health orders and legal directions in their areas of jurisdiction,
- GAus workplaces and Clubs may apply additional measures to safeguard their members appropriate to their local exposure risks and risk appetite,
- GAus supports application of basic precautions, Covid testing and recommended (non-mandated) preventive health measures to support wellbeing of staff and members,
- GAus supports the principle of disclosure of vaccination or exemption status and recent infection or close contact exposure, to better inform personal decisions as to exposure risks and preventive measures,

- GAus supports the principle that vulnerable individuals should exercise due caution and use additional personal protective measures,
- GAus supports respectful behaviour, tolerance and cooperation for mutual benefit in the workplace,
- GFA [AN 179 Issue 2](#) Disinfecting Cockpits and Associated Aviation Equipment remains in force.

Note that these policies reflect principles and informed, risk-based judgements, supported by collaborative behaviour, beyond any measures mandated in various jurisdictions.



A.R. (Drew) McKinnie
GFA Safety Manager

17 July 2022

Attachment: GFA ADMIN 030 Covid Policy Statement Version 0.1 dated July 2022

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COVID SAFETY POLICY STATEMENT

Version 0.1

July 2022

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Copyright © The Gliding Federation of Australia Inc

The Gliding Federation of Australia Inc (GFA), trading as Gliding Australia (GAus) supports the following **Covid 19 Safety Policies**:

GAus workplaces and Clubs must comply with local health orders and legal directions in their areas of jurisdiction,

GAus workplaces and Clubs may apply additional measures to safeguard their members appropriate to their local exposure risks and risk appetite,

GAus supports application of basic precautions, Covid testing and recommended (non-mandated) preventive health measures to support wellbeing of staff and members,

GAus supports the principle of disclosure of vaccination or exemption status and recent infection or close contact exposure, to better inform personal decisions as to exposure risks and preventive measures,

GAus supports the principle that vulnerable individuals should exercise due caution and use additional personal protective measures,

GAus supports respectful behaviour, tolerance and cooperation for mutual benefit in the workplace,

GFA AN 179 Issue 2 Disinfecting Cockpits and Associated Aviation Equipment remains in force.

Current Risk Environment

As of July 2022, we are currently seeing a sharp increase in Covid-19 cases across Australia, with severe impacts upon communities and health systems.

Relaxation of mandatory protective measures, coupled with increased travel, Covid fatigue in the community, and increasing infection reproduction rates of new Covid variants, all increase the risk of infection.

Whilst vaccinations and boosters have somewhat reduced the risk and impact of severe infections requiring hospitalisation and ventilation, many individuals are at high risk of infection or reinfection with potentially serious consequences.

Even mild cases of infection have been noted as having debilitating effects, causing high absentee rates and workforce impacts.

The risk doesn't just apply to workplaces. Vigilance and taking of precautions in all settings is strongly encouraged to avoid infection, or in some cases re-infection with Covid-19. It is strongly recommended that staff and members take precautions out of home during this period of increased risk.

GAus notes that although many of us have become accustomed to “living with Covid-19”, pandemic disruptions and stresses continue, and we each have an ongoing role in keeping those around us safe.

As an incorporated entity, we have responsibilities to ensure that reasonable precautions are in place to address the health and safety in our workplace.

Basic Precautions are:

- Do not enter an office, hangar, workshop, clubhouse, shared vehicle, dual seat glider or occupied indoor location if you are unwell or required to be in isolation
- If you are a close contact of a Covid-19 case or if you test positive, do not enter the workplace, and advise your manager and co-workers
- Maintain at least 1.5m distance from others while working, wherever possible
- Practice high levels of personal hygiene, with frequent handwashing and cough/sneeze into your elbow or tissue
- Ensure regular cleaning of all areas of workplace
- When working in an enclosed workspace, use open windows or positive ventilation measures where practicable
- No-touch delivery practices are preferred

Additional precautions may at time be required:

- Wearing face masks while working in higher risk settings
- Working from home
- Shorter hours in office facilities with public contact
- Minimising travel and exposure to crowded methods of transport
- Meetings using online communications and video-conferencing facilities
- Use of rapid antigen testing (RAT), or PCR testing clinic if infection status in doubt

Given the increased level of risk in the community, your manager will advise if there is a requirement to wear face masks while working indoors out of the home, including working on site or when undertaking any member facing activities.

Club Committees are invited to take similar active steps to better assure the wellbeing of their members. GAus and Regional Association officers travelling or performing support functions in other clubs are encouraged to adopt preventive measures to assure their own wellbeing and that of other members they are working with.

Airborne Activity

No vulnerable individuals, immunocompromised or at-risk members can be *compelled* to fly dual with other members or visitors and may request masks to be worn if they do fly together.

This recognises the heightened risks of occupying an enclosed space at close quarters in a cockpit, with circulating airflows increasing risks of cross-infection.

GAus uses the IMSAFE checklist for Pilot In Command (PIC) fitness to fly: Illness, Medication, Stress, Alcohol, Fatigue & Familiarity, Eating. PICs should remain attuned to possible symptoms

and post-infection impacts, particularly fatigue, "brain fog", impaired concentration, reduced stamina and focus.

Feedback

Feedback will be welcomed, to the GAus Executive Officer or GAus Safety Manager.

