



# GCV COVID-Safe Plan

## Version Control

As the COVID-19 virus is a fast-evolving situation throughout the world, this document must be treated as a living document and will be updated from time to time. Once printed this document cannot be controlled.

For the most up to date version of this document, refer to the Gliding Club of Victoria website

[www.glidingclub.org.au/covid19](http://www.glidingclub.org.au/covid19)

Date	Version	Description of Changes	Approved	Comments
21/7/2020	0.9	Document created based upon LKSC template.	Committee	Thanks to Lake Keepit for the Template.
21/7/2020	1.0	Versioning Updates header.	Comittee	Nil content updates
10/11/2020	1.1	Version Updates, accomodation, masks	Committee	
11/11/2020	2.0	Version updates		Refer tracked changes
October 2021	3.0	Major revision	Committee	
October 20, 2021	3.3	Minor revision and clarification		

## Background

The Gliding Club of Victoria Inc (GCV) is a Registered Association in Victoria and is affiliated with the Victorian Soaring Association and the Gliding Federation of Australia. It is located in the town of Benalla, which is in the LGA of Benalla Rural City Council and is located in Regional Victoria.

The core business of the GCV is to provide services to recreational and competitive soaring pilots, and as such the club provides both direct and indirect services which include:

- Flying Training, both casually and via intensive courses
- Launching services for solo pilots
- Running events which include training/coaching and competitions

For the purposes of this plan the club operates outside on a registered airfield (Benalla, Vic), and its core activities most closely resemble either the type of socially distanced community sport activity found at a Golf Club or a flying training organisation.

In support of these primary activities the club also provides several other services:

- A licenced clubhouse and weekend bistro/café facility during the summer season (hospitality venue)
- Briefing and training room (teaching venue, like a classroom)



- An aircraft maintenance and repair workshop (small repair business similar to an automotive repair business, employing one person)
- A private caravan park area (the “Aeropark”) used only by club members (accommodation), but not open to the general public. This facility maintains its own Covid-Safe plan.

## General Principles

GCV will abide by all laws, regulations and Chief Health Officer Orders applicable in Australia and Victoria as they apply to our location in Regional Victoria from time to time.

**Recognising that advice, requirements, and limitations applying to COVID-19 can change rapidly it is important to stress that the relevant government advice and restrictions in place at any time will always override any conflicting statements in this plan. Changes to requirements may be communicated to members by email, club website and/or by signage in various venues at the club prior to (or in place of) any re-issue of this plan.**

*Club members retain full responsibility for maintaining their understanding of and compliance with the current regulations and restrictions and must take personal responsibility for their own conduct while on GCV premises for the well-being of themselves, their families, other club members and the general public.*

Members must comply with the GFA Member Protection Policy and specifically with the Code of Conduct, including treating all persons with respect and courtesy, and refraining from abuse and harassment.

Although GCV will always abide by its responsibilities as an organisation (for example, QR code check in and appropriate operation of facilities), it is NOT the role of the club to dictate or police COVID-19 policies for individual members. Individual interactions between members remain the responsibility of members themselves.

Many activities at the GCV facilities have potential to spread the COVID virus if the circumstances align. As the virus is invisible members need to be constantly vigilant.

As a generalisation COVID 19 is spread through transfer of airborne droplets (aerosols).

Contact may be direct with an infected person or via a common touch point.

Airborne particles include expelled droplets, by nose and/or mouth, from an infected person.

Key objectives are to

- Be aware and limit exposure to potential infection pathways
- Limit contact with potentially infected surfaces and people
- Clean surfaces regularly where there may be common and recent touch points
- Maintain sufficient distance between people to limit the potential airborne infection
- Limit the spread of expelling of airborne droplets (aerosols)

## Shared Airfield

While the GCV will make every effort to minimise the possibility of COVID-19 infection on the airfield and during its own operations, it is not possible for GCV to guarantee that there is no risk of infection on Benalla Airfield. GCV is only one of a number of businesses operating on and around the airfield, and Council Officers, contractors and private citizens who may be legitimately on the airfield at any time. As a result, members must be vigilant and maintain their own personal protection at all times.



## Vaccination Policy

**GCV strongly supports the COVID-19 vaccination program and recommends that all members become fully vaccinated as soon as possible. GCV does not intend to mandate vaccination for members, volunteers or staff.**

Noting that future regulations may require organisations to apply different density limits or access in some settings and circumstances depending on vaccination status, the club may be required by law to check a member's vaccination status to decide whether a particular activity or access is permitted. We ask members to be aware of this and be understanding in situations where this may be required. Should a member decline to provide the information, GCV will assume that the member is unvaccinated and provide service on that basis.

Volunteer members may make individual choices about the circumstances in which the volunteer is willing to perform any duties. For example, some Instructors and coaches may decide to only fly with vaccinated people. Any such a decision must be respected. The club will not make an overall requirement in this area unless dictated by Health authorities.

Events such as club camps, coaching events, and competitions will be conducted in accordance with the regulations applicable to "socially distanced community sport" (for example, a golf competition). These requirements may differ from normal airfield operations and may need different vaccination rules to be followed. The specific requirements for these will be contained in entry documentation and/or in local rules for these events.

## On airfield and launch points

On the airfield and at launch points, the club's typical training operation will operate generally in accordance with regulations appropriate to those relevant to a flying (or other vehicle) training organisation from time to time. QR Code check ins are required at all launch points and current social distancing and mask wearing requirements must be followed. Specific issues to note are:

- Because access to the airfield is controlled and QR code check ins are required, the group of people assembled at a launch point is not a "gathering" as might apply to a group meeting or picnic in a public park (so restriction on numbers is not the same) however all regulations and advice in regard to density limits, social distancing and masks must apply at all times.
- There is a general exemption in government regulations for the wearing of masks in situations where clear communication for training purposes or safety is necessary. As a result, there is no legal requirement to wear masks in a 2-seat glider or tug. However, GCV respects the right of members to make personal choices in this regard and the two pilots concerned must therefore make a mutual decision as to whether masks will be worn. This *must* be a mutual decision and if no agreement can be reached, then the flight with those pilots cannot proceed.

## Personal Hygiene

Personal hygiene in terms of COVID 19 has been well publicised and documented.

A good guide is found at the following link.



<https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert/how-to-protectyourself-and-others-from-coronavirus-covid-19/good-hygiene-for-coronavirus-covid-19>

If you are unsure, please access and read the above document.

## Personal COVID Protection

In addition to avoiding touching face, mouth, nose, etc, members should wash their hands often and use hand sanitiser at appropriate points. Masks should be carried and worn as required by the Government health orders applicable for the setting and location on the airfield, noting that these requirements may vary depending on the location and circumstances.

All members should come to the club with a personal supply of cleaning products, hand sanitisers, face masks, gloves, and any other items they feel will improve their personal COVID safety. GCV does not mandate the use of any specific brand or rating of PPE equipment, except to strongly recommend that any PPE used should meet the current government regulations and guidelines in force at any time.

## QR Codes and Attendance Registers

GCV has implemented QR codes and attendance registers at all locations and these must be used. Members should note that a failure to abide by these rules can result in penalties for both the club and individuals.

Everyone (members, guests, students, tug pilots, family, friends, etc) on arrival must complete the QR check in process that is required at each location. Note that the QR codes at different locations may vary, so multiple check ins may be needed depending on whether the member attends the clubhouse, workshop, launch points etc.

## Cleaning and Sanitising Aircraft

Members must take their own responsibility for cleaning aircraft between flights especially when getting into an aircraft that has been flown by others. This is a personal responsibility of the pilot(s) who are intending to fly the aircraft next and should become part of each pre-flight check on club gliders. Pilots should not assume that the previous pilot has cleaned it.

Although current advice places greater emphasis on the dangers of airborne virus transmission, good hygiene practices in shared areas and aircraft remain a vital part of the limitation of transmission and this aspect should not be overlooked.

A good guide to what and how to sanitise the aircraft is found with the GFA's Airworthiness Advice Notice AN 179 – titled "DISINFECTING COCKPITS AND ASSOCIATED AVIATION". This is mandatory reading for aircraft pilots and student pilots. The link to this document is:

[http://doc.glidingaustralia.org/index.php?option=com\\_docman&view=document&alias=2696-gfa-179anissue-2-cockpit-disinfection-2020-05-25&category\\_slug=an-151-200&Itemid=133&highlight=WzE3OV0=](http://doc.glidingaustralia.org/index.php?option=com_docman&view=document&alias=2696-gfa-179anissue-2-cockpit-disinfection-2020-05-25&category_slug=an-151-200&Itemid=133&highlight=WzE3OV0=)

Keys points to note are:

- Some chemicals may (will) damage instruments, fittings, or the aircraft fuselage (any plastics),



- Some chemicals are highly flammable as liquids and vapour. Not good to mix with batteries, switches, and oxygen systems. A very lean mixture of air to combustible fluid can be explosive (How much does your canopy cost to replace?), and

GCV expects that all club gliders will be thoroughly cleaned at the end of the day.

A cleaning kit will be available for club gliders. GCV will supply cleaning materials for club gliders and vehicles.

## Response to suspected infection

Members should personally monitor their own health and immediately isolate and seek a test if they have even the mildest symptoms. In this situation (if the member has recently attended the club) the member should inform the club, which will take appropriate action as advised by relevant government authority in regard to isolation, closing of premises, deep cleaning or whatever other action is deemed necessary by the situation and the requirements in force at any time.

## Accommodation

There is no change in procedure for booking a GCV Hut. COVID-safe documentation will be present in the huts.

Members are reminded that GCV Huts are provided by the Aeropark. The Aeropark is subject to its own COVID-safe protocols. A copy of the Aeropark COVID-safe Plan will be placed in each GCV Hut.

## Travel

At times when travel to and from various locations is restricted by government regulation, GCV will check the home addresses of members or visitors attending the club and where necessary will deny access or services if the home address or point of departure is from a location that is not permitted. Members are required to take personal responsibility for ensuring that their travel is permitted and approved and be ready to demonstrate that if requested.

## Club Facilities & Procedures

### State Gliding Centre (SGC) Clubhouse

The clubhouse will operate in accordance with the current regulations for either a hospitality venue or a training classroom depending on the use of the facility in each case. Signage will indicate the regulations in place on a day-to-day basis.

### SGC Bar

Bar procedures remain the same, however the bar will operate in accordance with current regulations and signage will indicate the regulations in place on a day-to-day basis.

The Bar counter may be used in accordance with current regulations.

### Commercial kitchen



The Commercial kitchen will be operating during the soaring season and will operate in accordance with current regulations for restaurant/café venues. This will include appropriate cleaning and sanitising at the end of each period and between sittings as required.

### **Communal kitchen**

The SGC kitchen is open. Members must always adhere to social distancing and hygiene requirements.

### **Upstairs Briefing Room**

The upstairs briefing room will operate in accordance with current regulations as they apply to classrooms or training rooms. This will include appropriate cleaning and sanitising at the end of each usage as required by current regulations.

### **Quiet Room**

The Quiet Room is open. Occupants must always adhere to social distancing and hygiene requirements.

### **Office**

The Office is open however members are requested not to enter the Office unless necessary and then subject to adherence to current social distancing and PPE requirements, for the protection of the Office Manager and others who may be present. Members should not congregate in the Office.

### **Simulator**

The Simulator is available and should be used in accordance with requirements for other training facilities.

### **Briefings**

Morning briefings may continue in the SGC, subject to current requirements and restrictions applicable to training rooms.