



Motorcycle Observer
COVID-19 Restart
Guidelines

18 August 2020

Latest Update 18th August

In light of the changing Government guidelines, the IAM RoadSmart COVID-19 Restart Guidelines have been updated to reflect the current position regarding hosting meetings indoors, in England. We still advise virtual meetings are preferable.

This update reflects the following extracts from the guidelines for England, updated on 14 August.

Clubs or groups can begin to meet again in COVID-19 secure venues. However, you should take care to remain socially distant from anyone you do not live with or is not in your support bubble. You should also limit social interaction with anyone outside of these formal activities even if you see other people you know. Venues should ensure they comply with COVID-19 secure guidelines.

More generally, you can continue to meet in larger groups if necessary for work, voluntary or charitable services, education, childcare or training, elite sporting competition or training, to fulfil legal obligations, to provide emergency assistance, or to enable someone to avoid illness, injury or risk of harm.

Full details of meeting other people can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/meeting-people-from-outside-your-household-from-4-july>

While the Government guidelines do make provision for group meetings, we advise it is for the organiser of a meeting to ensure the premises are COVID-19 secure and that a current risk assessment is in place detailing the control measures that must be followed.

The Government guidance makes clear that meetings indoors should be deemed necessary and we encourage groups to explore all realistic virtual meeting and engagement options first, because they pose no risk of infection.

We also remind groups of the importance of staying informed about any local restrictions and differences within the devolved administration areas as there are often differences in the numbers or make up of groups permitted to meet either inside or outside. Our overriding advice is that while we are trying to get back to a semblance of normality, the safety of our members is our main priority.

We continue to advise that all government restrictions are followed and that groups operate in line with our own guidelines, to keep us all safe.

The group riding guidelines prepared with other motorcycle organisations can be found at https://wiki.mag-uk.org/images/0/01/COMOCOVID_v3_01.pdf

Latest Update 30th June

In line with the governments plans to keep the R number below one we have the news of the first localised lockdown being implemented in Leicester, the local group has already ceased operating until further notice and informed us of their committees' decision. If other areas are subject to a local lockdown where circumstances dictate extra restrictions are imposed it is our intention to stop all activity in that area until the restrictions are relaxed. Please monitor your local area carefully and if extra restrictions are imposed liaise with your local ASDM.

Latest Update 25th June

The latest information from the Scottish government is that non-essential shops can open on 29th June and they have published an indicative date, 3rd July for the 5-mile travel restriction to be relaxed. The combination of these two relaxations would mean that Scotland would be in generally the same position as England and it gives us a window to re-commence motorcycle observing in Scotland. We await confirmation of the relaxation of the 5-mile limit being applied on the 3rd of July but are preparing to commence motorcycle activity on this date. As yet we have no information regarding a relaxation of this rule in Wales. IAM RoadSmart will continue to

monitor the changing advice but observers must continue to adhere to local advice if it changes.

Update to be read together with the guidance below.

Recent updates to the social distancing rules have suggested in England up to 6 people can meet outside and on 15th June non-essential retail outlets can open suggesting non-essential journeys are permissible. This gives scope to the limited commencement of social group rides. In the initial stages we would like to concentrate on associate riders and get them back to training. This change does allow for a trainee observer or senior observer to accompany the pair if this is necessary for training purposes. All participants must follow the guidelines. It will be acceptable for an observer to take out two candidates if they are both in agreement, it would be preferable at this stage to keep them apart where possible and use of staggered start times and changeover points to 'swap' associates should be considered, for the moment the doubling up should be the exception not the rule.

If you are signed up to the NHS test and trace system, follow the guidelines as laid out in the Government link below if you have a contact.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-test-and-trace-how-it-works>

Introduction

Whilst IAM RoadSmart is keen to get back to observed sessions and doing what we do best, making safer drivers and riders, we need to be confident that when we do resume activities we are not only within the guidelines but offering the best advice for you our observers and our associates to stay safe. We must also pay due regard to the publicity we court and the perception we project to interested bystanders. The following guidance document is released in preparation for us being able to re-start observed runs. It is almost certain that for some time ahead we will be being asked to 'stay alert' so it follows that certain social distancing recommendations will remain in place. We will adjust the advice to fit the guidelines as they evolve but the overriding principle must be that personal safety is prioritised and if you regard any session as a significant risk then do not conduct it. Consider using the government COVID tracking app, which will make tracing possible contact with the virus easier to track.

The following guidelines are in preparation for being able to commence motorcycle observed runs.

Planning before the observed session

Any ride must be within the current government (and IAMRS) guidelines and must have agreement from both observer and associate:

- All observing must be on a 1:1 basis
- Be aware that, at present, the guidelines for leaving the house for other than essential reasons may be different in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Please check your

current regional restrictions which are constantly changing

- Remember, your meeting place and stopping venues should, as far as is practicable, comply with our safeguarding guidelines
- Remain outdoors, in a public place with recommended social distancing of at least 2m always maintained
- Plan your route carefully, avoid busy locations, crowded car parks and areas likely to suffer from traffic congestion
- Use your local knowledge to locate essential services and public conveniences which may be open on your route
- Know the COVID 19 safe procedures to follow at filling stations or shops
- Make sure you have a full tank of fuel - try to limit the number of fuel stops you make
- Prepare a COVID 19 safety kit to take with you, such as alcohol hand gel, masks, gloves, tissues, plastic bags, etc. Use it appropriately and safely
- Use of a face covering is optional but may minimise cross-contamination
- Radio equipment may be used but only if an associate has compatible equipment do not share headsets or microphones.

Briefing:

This should be carried out by phone or virtual meeting before any observed ride.

You must seek confirmation that neither party:

- has tested positive for Covid19 and should be self-isolating
- is showing symptoms of Covid19 and should be self-isolating
- has been advised to shield or shelter as part of a vulnerable group or caregiver for a vulnerable person
- is part of a household where residents are any of the above.

If either party has ANY concerns the ride should not be carried out

Agree on a suitable meeting place with your associate, avoid busy car parks and crowded locations

Agree in advance what you are going to do:

- if you have problems
- if you get separated
- if an emergency occurs

- when you need to give directions
- and remember to exchange mobile numbers.

Remind your associate to bring a copy of the Highway Code and their associate logbook so that they can be referred to without exchanging material.

To avoid unnecessary contact, email your associate a copy of the disclaimer to read, sign and return to you via email before the session taking place.

Remind your associate they must ensure their motorcycle is fully legal and with enough fuel for at least the duration of your intended ride.

Any refreshments should be carried by those using them, observers and associates to provide their refreshments.

Remember to take your copy of the Highway Code, Observer handbook and any resources you can usefully use while socially distancing.

Arrival and start of the session

Remember to:

- conduct a visual inspection of the motorcycle (don't get involved in a proper vehicle examination)
- conduct an eyesight test

Give associate the initial directions when you meet but remember when you are ready to ride off thumbs up to show you are both good to go.

During session

Do not to stop or park in public car parks where you cannot be sure of maintaining adequate social distancing. Also, be aware that some regular stops may have restrictions or very limited facilities, make sure you plan for this in your session.

Remind your associate that when you stop you must make sure you stay socially distanced from others around you.

Stops during session

It is acceptable to plan a route with no midpoint stop and to return to your safe starting point to conduct your final de-brief.

End of session

The de-brief should take place at 2m distance:

- Do not exchange any material or documents - this includes radio equipment
- Arrange the next session
- Explain your report will be provided electronically, using editable runs sheet sent via email
- Follow up with phone call or virtual meeting if necessary.