

MOVE TO STEP FOUR OF THE ROADMAP OUT OF COVID

As everyone will be aware, most domestic restrictions put in place during the Covid-19 pandemic were lifted today, 19 July. The ECB has also published updated guidance, which can be found at <https://resources.ecb.co.uk/ecb/document/2021/07/19/f732d8f3-d8b9-44cf-b5fe-77518c128029/Recreational-Cricket-COVID-Guidance-in-England-Step-4-July-1-.pdf>.

2. Whilst Covid-19 has not gone away, and there is still a need to be sensibly careful, as a consequence of the Government and ECB moves, the Executive is delighted to announce a return to "normal" cricket from this Saturday, 24 July. This means:

- i. All matches outside the Premier League will start at their normal time of 1230 rather than 1200;
- ii. Sanitisation breaks during play will no longer be required; and
- iii. All Clubs will be expected to provide tea (and lunch in the 1st XI Premier Division) and open their pavilion facilities as normal.

3. If, exceptionally, any Club feels unable safely to provide tea this coming Saturday, it should advise the League Secretary as soon as possible and by Wednesday evening at the latest. It should also advise its opponents and (where appointed) the Panel Umpires assigned to the game. No deviations from the normal rule of providing hospitality will be permitted after 24 July.

4. Clubs are requested to ask their players to be sensible in not spending too much time indoors in large groups and in maintaining social distance where appropriate. It may be that some players will still not wish to shake hands or come into close contact with their opponents and/or officials, and this should be respected.

5. Also, for the remainder of this season, players should continue to refrain from handing their caps, sweaters etc to umpires; these should be given to a teammate or placed outside the boundary.

KEIR HOPLEY

Chairman of the Registration and Regulations Committee

19 July 2021