

PANDAS Flying Site Covid Secure – Notice to Members Thursday 17th
September 2020

Dear PANDAS Member,

After the changes to the government Covid legislation by the government on 14th September 2020, it became illegal for people (from different households) to gather and socialise either inside or outside in public / private places, in groups of 6 or more.

However much of the legislation / guidelines are ambiguous and there are no clear answers to some of the questions that people may raise.

It is lawful for groups of up to 6 to gather and socialise, but there is no guidelines or law that says if 10 groups of 6 did go to a public park, how far the groups should be apart.

Common sense would say at least 2 metres, the figure that is often quoted for social distancing. However, this 2-metre statement is a guideline and not legally enforceable.

There seems to be no definition of what socialise means. If 2 separate groups of 6 talked to each other, even if sat many metres apart, could that be classed as socialising? The home secretary Pritti Patel, seemed to suggest that would constitute a gathering and the people were then socialising, with more than 6 and that would be illegal. I cannot say I share her view on that situation and if it ever happened, I doubt any court would agree with her.

There are exemptions for people playing or taking part in sporting activities. **Legally, model flying is classed as a sport.** If you can show your sports field and facilities are Covid secure, the 6 people rule does not apply. It is like a golf course or football match.

There are a number of steps you must go through to show your site / facilities are Covid secure. You have to do a risk assessment (I have done that), you have to have some sort of logging system to show who has visited your site with times and dates, for any possible track and trace enquires (we have the calendar system in place now). You must have signage at your site reminding people about the 2-metre social distancing guidelines (see pdf attachment). Signs were placed on the cabins yesterday and there are 2 signs in the cabin on metal pins where the flags are. There are now 2 areas by the two bridges leading to the field marked out, to 'Keep Clear'. **The 2 signs on the pins**

need to be placed here when members are flying. I know it is another 2 things to get out and then put away, but it is not a big job.

We have a dedicated website page (link below) that members can refer to and see what is required at our field. I will make sure this is always up to date.

It is asked that members keep a regular check on this page, as things can change at short notice. **Please check the page now, so you are familiar with the rules / guidelines.**

<http://pandas.bmfa.org/pandas-flying-field-access-from-monday-14th-september-2020-covid-update>

The main differences at our field now are:

1. You must let us know the times and dates you are at the field (the calendar system).
2. As well as the normal flight line flags, place the two Covid 2 metre social distance warning signs on the metal pins, in the **'Keep Clear'** areas by the bridges.
3. If there are more than 6 people at the field, keep any groups, to 6 or less and make sure the groups are a good distance apart (3 metres or more). This is not a legal requirement, but if members of the public are passing, it gives a good impression, that we are acting responsibly.

The bottom line is, that I am as satisfied, as far as I can be, that we are acting lawfully, if we follow the rules / guidelines on the website page.

As club chairman I guess the book stops at me, if what we are doing, is questioned as to its legality.

If anyone in any official capacity does come to the field (unlikely but you never know) and questions what we are doing, please refer them to me. I am happy for them to contact me by phone to discuss it.

If anyone has any questions or needs to clarify anything, please feel free to call or email me.

Martin Lynn,

PANDAS Chairman.

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