

Dear Members,

At the recent AGM and committee meeting, there was extensive discussion about Covid-19 measures to ensure compliance with the LTA guidance and to ensure that playing with and for the club is as comfortable and safe as possible.

Please read the below carefully. It sets out the safety measures that are in place and also the responsibilities you each have as players. There are also extra responsibilities for the captains at home matches but we hope that all the players will support and remind the captains as needed.

### General Information

1. The Highbury Fields courts have been risk assessed and passed by the LTA.
2. The porta-loos are part of the wider park but the Head of Parks, Islington Council has confirmed that
  - a. The porta-loos are currently open;
  - b. A socially-distanced queuing system is in operation;
  - c. An enhanced cleaning programme is in place – currently, they are cleaned every 2 hours
  - d. There is Covid-19 safe signage in place.
3. The drinking water fountain remains closed so players must bring their own drinks.

### Things you should be aware of if you are playing tennis at all – whether matches or practices or socials.

1. Please read carefully the LTA guidance to players and take note of the details. [www.lta.org.uk/globalassets/news/2020/lta-guidance-for-tennis-players---covid-19.pdf](http://www.lta.org.uk/globalassets/news/2020/lta-guidance-for-tennis-players---covid-19.pdf) The below is NOT a substitute and you each have a responsibility to follow the guidance.
2. Please maintain 2m distancing as much as possible. Playing sport is not an excuse to simply forget this.
3. Before leaving home to play you should undergo a pre-attendance self-assessment for any Covid-19 symptoms using the information on the NHS website – the link is here [www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms)
4. No one should leave home to participate in tennis if they, or someone they live with, has symptoms of Covid-19 which is currently recognised as any of the following
  - a. A high temperature
  - b. A new continuous cough
  - c. A loss of, or change to, their sense of smell or taste.
5. If you are concerned about symptoms even on the day of playing/on arrival, just say and don't play. Losing points is not as important as everyone's health.
6. If you develop symptoms after having played at Highbury Fields or other local venue e.g. Rosemary Gardens, or at an away match venue please follow the

NHS test and trace rules. See [www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-test-and-trace-how-it-works](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-test-and-trace-how-it-works)

7. Please also immediately email the club at [highburytennis@gmail.com](mailto:highburytennis@gmail.com) and also (if applicable) the captain of the match. Please give as much detail as you can about your visits to courts/people you have played with etc. The captain should ensure that the information is passed to the opposing captain and away team general email as soon as possible.
8. If things happen which make you uncomfortable/you have suggestions, please let the club know by emailing us. There is also an FAQs page on the LTA website which you may find of use.

#### If you are playing a home match

1. The captains will be provided with a .pdf document to attach to an email to send the opposing captain with our Covid-19 procedures. The captain should also attach the HTC Covid-19 form referred to in 3 below.
2. However, everyone has a responsibility to be careful, to comply with the guidance and rules and to be considerate.
3. A proforma form has been created – attached – which all players, both home and away, must sign before hitting a ball. It requires personal details and a signature to confirm compliance with Covid-19 guidance. This form should be handed in person to Wendy or a digital copy sent to the club email as soon as possible (a legible phone photo is fine). It must be kept safe! [highburytennis@gmail.com](mailto:highburytennis@gmail.com)
4. The club will provide a box with sanitisers, cleaning cloths and cleaning spray. It is hoped that this will be housed in the hut.
5. The captain should clean the latches to all the various court gates before players enter the courts. Please remind them!
6. The hand sanitiser should be used by all and must be offered to the visiting team. It should be left out, perhaps to one side of the net, so that both teams can use them as often as they wish.
7. The captain should ensure that he/she or a player brings some spare bottles of water for the opposing team (1 bottle per player).
8. The bench should be made available for the away team with the home team keeping their bags and kit at least 2m away.
9. After the match the captain should return the box of sanitisers, cloths and sprays to the hut.

Our club website has been updated to include a page about Covid.  
[www.highburytennisclub.com/Covid-19.html](http://www.highburytennisclub.com/Covid-19.html)

Good luck with all your matches – and happy tennis playing.

All best  
The HTC Committee