

INNOMINATA MOUNTAIN CLUB COVID-19 POLICY

Innominata Mountain Club (“the Club”) will follow the guidelines laid down from time to time by the British Mountaineering Council in accordance with Government guidance.

This Policy applies only to activities carried out under the auspices of the Club and which have been approved by the Committee:

- Monthly programme of walks (individual walks to be agreed by the Walks Secretary)
- Tuesday evening rock climbing (outdoors and indoors)
- Weekend meets

In order to carry out activities in Wales, the Club will appoint a COVID-19 Officer.

Walks

Routes will be planned to take account of COVID-19 risks, in particular:

- Whether the area is likely to be busy, and whether there are points along the route where social distancing will be difficult
- Travel and parking arrangements, since car-sharing isn’t permitted
- The ability of the group

The walk leader is to decide the maximum size of the group, having regard to current regulations for the area where the walk will take place,

The walk leader is to carry out a risk assessment using the Club’s template (based on the BMC’s template)

- On completion, this is to be sent to the Club’s COVID-19 Officer
- The COVID-19 Officer is to be responsible for keeping this for 3 years from the date of the activity

All places must be booked using Webcollect

- Webcollect will be used to inform participants about social distancing, travel, food and drink and other information as required by the BMC Guidance.
- For activities in Wales, this will include a declaration by the participant that they are free of symptoms

At the start of the event, the walk leader will

- Check the names of those attending
- Confirm no one has developed symptoms since booking
- Brief participants on social distancing and other matters as recommended by BMC Guidance
- Remind participants to contact NHS Track and Trace, and inform the walk leader, if they develop symptoms after the event.

Where the list of those attending is solely for tracking purposes, the COVID-19 Officer will be responsible for deleting the list of participants after 21 days.

NB The list may be kept for longer, in accordance with the Club's data protection policy, where it is also required for other purposes besides tracking, eg for paid events where it is necessary to keep financial records

Outdoor climbing

As the outdoor climbing season has come to an end there is no need for a policy. This can be reviewed in Spring 2021.

Members' attention is to be drawn to BMC's advice on climbing.

Indoor climbing

Although BMC has clarified that it is acceptable for the Club to publish a list of indoor climbing venues as usual, the Committee has decided not to do so, as we cannot be certain that people will attend or that the wall might not close at short notice. Members who wish to climb indoors may make their own informal arrangements but must bear in mind that the exception which allows clubs to have larger groups will not apply, and they must follow national and local guidelines on group sizes, as well as complying with the wall's own requirements.

Weekend Meets - Huts

Meets held at club huts or similar shared accommodation will not resume until the Committee is satisfied that:

- Government guidelines allow groups from several different households to share accommodation
- The owner of the accommodation can demonstrate that satisfactory hygiene measures are in place
- Generally, that the meet can take place safely
- Sufficient members are willing to use shared accommodation, so there is no financial risk to the club from unused places

Weekend Meets - Camping

Consideration will be given to organising camping meets, to the extent that Government guidelines allow.

The meet organiser is to carry out a risk assessment using the Club's template (based on the BMC's template)

- On completion, this is to be sent to the Club's COVID-19 Officer
- The COVID-19 Officer is to be responsible for keeping this for 3 years from the date of the activity

All places must be booked using Webcollect

- Webcollect will be used to inform participants about social distancing, travel, food and drink and other information as required by the BMC Guidance.
- For activities in Wales, this will include a declaration by the participant that they are free of symptoms

- This is to comply with the club's obligation to keep records for tracking. Purposes. Unless otherwise stated, members will be responsible for making their own booking arrangements with the campsite.
- Members must bring their own equipment, which is not to be shared outside their household/bubble.
- In particular, only members of the same household/bubble may share a tent
- Members must bring their own food and drink, and sharing outside households/bubbles is not permitted.
- Members must comply with current official guidelines when socialising during the weekend.
- As campsites are open to the public it is possible that members will arrive without previously having informed the meet organiser. If they intend to join in with any Club activities, whether active or social, the meet organiser must add their names to the list and inform the COVID-19 Officer as soon as possible after the meet so the Club's tracking records can be updated.
- Clarification is awaited from the BMC on whether additional risk assessments and record keeping will be required for individual activities carried out during the meet.

APPENDIX 1

Organised outdoor group activity – Mitigating against Covid-19 Risks - TEMPLATE

Use this template form to help you understand the risks and any steps you need to take to stay safe before leading a meet with a group.

The form should be used in conjunction with the BMC guidance – Groups of Outdoor Climbers and Hill Walkers.

Complete a copy for every meet. **Copies should be kept for 3 years after the date of the meet**

Club/organisation name	INNOMINATA MOUNTAIN CLUB		
Location of activity		Date of activity	DD/MM/YY
Activity Organiser / Leader			
Risk Assessment done by		Date of risk assessment	DD/MM/YY
		Checked by Club COVID-19 Officer *	DD/MM/YY

* for clubs, see guidance 5.1

Risk of transmission of COVID-19	Who might be at risk of spreading COVID-19?	Ways to control the risk	Action taken
PRE-MEET (PLANNING)			
Through close contact with other people during the activity	Participants Members of the public	Consider planning the activity for a less busy time and/or at a quieter location.	Yes
		Avoid particularly busy or narrow routes and locations where physical distancing is not possible.	Yes
		Consider top-roping and/or single-pitch crags for climbing events	
		Give clear information about limiting the group size up to a maximum of 30 people	Webcollect booking form
		Remind participants beforehand about relevant current government guidelines.	Webcollect booking form
		Suggest participants bring hand sanitiser and/or anti-bacterial wipes.	Webcollect booking form
		Advise participants to provide their own equipment, such as small personal first aid kit, bothy bag / survival bag, and food and drink.	Webcollect booking form

		Remind members that if they have any of the symptoms of coronavirus, or live with someone with symptoms, they must not attend.	<i>Webcollect booking form</i>
		Ensure you have a record of who has booked on.	<i>Webcollect record</i>
Through close contact with other people while travelling to / from the activity	Participants Members of the public Public transport staff	Remind participants of the current regulations regarding car sharing	<i>Webcollect booking form</i>
		Remind participants of the current regulations regarding face coverings on public transport	<i>Webcollect booking form</i>
		Consider a meeting venue with suitable parking – sufficient for the number of people attending while allowing for suitable distancing between members	Yes
Risk of transmission of COVID-19	Who might be at risk of spreading COVID-19?	Ways to control the risk	Action taken
ON THE DAY			
Through close contact / meeting other people during the activity	Participants Members of the public	Brief participants at the start to maintain 2 metre social distancing – this is everyone's responsibility.	
		Remind anyone with symptoms to go home / those that are not able to agree to the self-declaration statement (Appendix C).	
		Attendee numbers must not exceed government guidance (absolute maximum of 30 people), and must be appropriate to the style of activity, experience of participants and location used.	
		Brief participants what to do at any pinch points or road crossings to maintain social distancing.	
		Provide hand sanitiser, min 70% alcohol content / wipes on the day, and safe disposable bags for used wipes and gloves (gloves also need to be sanitised regularly)	
		Ensure you have a record of all those who took part.	<i>Checked against Webcollect record</i>
Through close contact with other people when dealing with incidents / accidents	Participants Members of the public Emergency services, including Mountain Rescue Teams	Advise the group to stay within their competency level, whether climbing, walking, scrambling or mountaineering to reduce the risk of incidents happening.	<i>Webcollect booking form</i>
		Advise members to use their own first aid kit for personal use where possible.	<i>Webcollect booking form</i>
		Minimise those who need to carry out first aid to essential first aiders only, to minimise close contact with a casualty.	

		Carry additional bags to securely wrap any disposed/used first aid equipment and associated PPE used.	
		Ensure you are up-to-date with current guidance about administering first aid.	
Through touching gates, stiles, fences or equipment	Participants Members of the public	Suggest participants use their own hand sanitiser and/or anti-bacterial wipes and use regularly.	
		Avoid touching gates and path furniture where possible.	
		Advise participants to only use their own equipment, such as maps, compasses and walking poles, and not to share with those outside of their household.	
		Do not share group shelters or bothy bags	
		Advise participants not to share food and drink.	
		Ways to control the risk	
Through touching climbing equipment	Participants Climbing partner	Inform participants of the potential risks associated with touching shared climbing hardware– protection and quickdraws – while on a route and recommend a regime of using hand sanitiser (or anti-bacterial wipes) before and after each route.	
		Inform participants of the risks associated with putting gear in the mouth whilst placing gear / clipping ropes.	
AFTER THE EVENT			
	Participants	Remind participants that should they present any COVID-19 symptoms, or become symptomatic, after the activity that it is essential for them to report this to the NHS Test & Trace service. Ask them to inform yourself as well	<i>Webcollect booking form</i>
		Keep a record of everyone taking part (names and contact details) in case this is needed for contact tracing. You must keep this record securely and delete or destroy it after 21 days	<i>Webcollect record</i>
<i>Please add more lines if needed</i>			

How to review the risks

This template is a tool to help you plan and lead a group while abiding by the regulations relating to COVID-19. You must complete this for each group activity.

- Use the template to assess whether your activity is safe to go ahead.
- Think about the different types of hazards, the risks and any solutions to minimise the risk. We've included some common examples, but think carefully about your own activity in case anything needs adding that would place you, or the participants, or members of the public at greater risk of transmission of COVID-19.
Examples of other risks might include:
 - Flooding, after heavy rain, leading to the use of alternative paths where social distancing may be difficult
 - Incoming tide for coastal routes, start time adjustments required
 - Unexploded ordnance (if walking on a right of way across a military site) requiring additional pre-activity briefing to avoid a higher risk of injury.
- We've included some suggestions for ways to control the risks and you are welcome to amend the document to fit better with the type of activities that you run - **you do not need to tick/answer every box**. The important thing is to identify potential hazards and note the actions you will take to reduce the risk.
- It's important to undertake a risk review **before** the activity takes place. You should start filling it out when planning your activity, and update it with any extra hazards that you notice as you complete your preparations.

This isn't an exhaustive list, so think carefully about any specific risks you may encounter during your activity

APPENDIX 2

GUIDELINES FOR WALK ORGANISERS

Walk Organisers must read and follow the BMC Guidelines:

<https://www.thebmc.co.uk/covid19-restarting-club-meets>

Most of this is common sense and you would be doing it anyway, but we must be more formal in recording what we do, to demonstrate that we are following good practice to keep members safe, and so that in the event of someone developing symptoms their contacts can be traced.

Route Planning

Take account of whether the location is likely to be busy, or whether there are narrow places where social distancing will be difficult.

Find appropriate places with plenty of space to accommodate social distancing for the group to meet at the start of the event and for any rest-breaks.

Take account that there are restrictions travel and on car sharing. Long journeys should be avoided if possible, think about staying local. Will parking be adequate? Do you have a Plan B if the parking is full?

Consider how strenuous or technically difficult the route will be, so that participants can decide whether it is within their limits. We should be more risk-averse than usual, to avoid endangering rescue services and adding to the burden on the NHS.

Consider the size of the party you can safely lead. Whilst up to 30 (including organisers) is now allowed, usually a smaller group will be appropriate. If a large number are interested, consider arranging a separate walk at another location.

Risk Assessment

Carry out a risk assessment using the template (available from the club's website). You may need to add addition matters specific to this walk (eg, a coastal walk may need to consider tides).

Send this to the club's COVID-19 Officer (a digital copy will do)

Bookings

Attendees will be required to book a place using Webcollect. This will become the club's record for compliance purposes, and for tracking should someone later develop symptoms. The record will be stored for as long as necessary to comply with the BMC Guidelines and the Club's data protection policy

The activity should be set up in Webcollect using either the COVID-19 or COVID-19 WALES form, as appropriate. If you are unable to set up an activity on Webcollect yourself, contact Howard Jones and provide him with full details.

If a participant is unable to use Webcollect, a booking can be made on their behalf.

For activities in Wales, this will include obtaining confirmation that they are not suffering from Covid symptoms.

PPE

Group leaders should carry personal protective equipment, including a face covering, gloves, apron and goggles in case of any incidents. You should also carry bags to dispose of discarded PPE and wipes. As with standard good practice we strongly encourage you to carry a first aid kit, fully charged mobile phone, personal food and drink, and a map and compass.

In the event of an accident, as few people as possible should be involved in giving first aid. PPE should be worn. NB current CPR guidance is to give chest compressions only, with no rescue breaths.

Briefing

Check the participants attending against the bookings from Webcollect. If there are any changes (people not attending, or others attending who had not booked) inform the COVID-19 Officer after the event so the correct names and contact numbers can be recorded.

Before setting off, as well as your normal checks and introductions remind everyone about:

- Social distancing. In particular, people must keep apart at pinch points such as gates, stiles and road crossings, and at rest points.
- Hygiene measures – use of hand sanitiser; catch it, bin it, kill it; avoiding sharing equipment or food and drink.
- Them contacting NHS England Test & Trace / NHS Wales Test, Trace, Protect should they become symptomatic after the activity, and also informing the organiser.
- Them speaking with the leader/organiser if they feel uncomfortable with the procedures during the event.
- You keeping a record of their contact details for contact tracing purposes, if requested to do so.

Further details can be found in the BMC Guidance.

At the end of the activity

Remind participants that if they subsequently develop symptoms they must contact NHS Track and Trace, and must also inform you.

In the event that you are informed that someone has developed symptoms, contact the club's Covid-19 Officer.