

## **COVID -19 PLAN FOR HEDNESFORD TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB**

Hednesford Town Football Club have completed a comprehensive review and implementation of measures within regards to covid-19 and the prevention of the spread of Coronavirus. In line with the F.A requirements we have completed a full risk assessment and action plan overseen by Hayden Dando of Lionheart Security Services and Graham Jones of Residential and Commercial Engineering LTD. A copy of the risk assessment can be found on the club noticeboard within the main stand at The PRG Stadium@Keys Park.

Covid – 19 officer Hayden Dando

### **FOOTBALL ACTIVITY**

Hednesford Town Football Club have commenced a return to training in line with the current guidelines given by the Government as follows –

#### **TRAINING**

Maximum of 30 people attending training sessions

Temperature checks are taken prior to training and all attendees have to confirm that neither they nor anybody they live with has any covid-19 symptoms whilst providing full details in order to comply with the governments track and trace system.

Players travel to training changed and do not travel in groups

All equipment is wiped down following use

Players have been made aware of the one-way system being used at any facility we train at as well as the facilities individual guidelines in relation to Covid-19.

Ahead of the planned return to fixtures in August 2020 (friendly matches) Hednesford Town Football Club policy for matchdays is as follows –

- Players are to travel independently to games, where this is not possible due to location, socially distanced travel within club vehicles (e.g. minibus) will be arranged along with the use of private vehicles to minimise any risk associated with the spread of covid-19. (please see further information on club travel within this document)
- Prior to any game at Keys Park the Covid-19 officer will conduct a full briefing with everybody involved within the game. This will be repeated several times in order to comply with social distancing measures and will take place at the side of the pitch not indoors. Any away fixtures the Covid-19 officer will make contact with the opposing club to receive covid-19 information from them and will ensure a full briefing is given to everyone travelling with the club to the fixture.

### **CHANGING FACILITIES**

- At Hednesford Town we have 3 changing areas available – Home, Away and officials. All players and officials from both sides are encouraged to arrive changed and ready, where this is not possible a member of the security team at Hednesford Town will ensure that no more than 11 players and one official are in either the home or away

changing room at any one time and that no more than 1 person is in the officials' changing area at any one time. Where possible showering is discouraged, and preference is to shower at home.

- Hand sanitiser will be provided to players from both sides as well as officials as they leave the changing area
- Toilets will be open in both changing areas but will be limited to 1 person at any 1 time.
- Prior to the game both clubs will need everyone attending in any capacity to provide full contact details in order to comply with NHS track and trace. This information will then be stored at Hednesford Town Football Club compliant with GDPR regulations. All persons entering the stadium will also be required to confirm they do not have any covid-19 symptoms and to have their temperature checked and confirmed.
- Before, during and after matches social distancing is to be applied
- No pre match handshakes will be allowed
- Team talks should be held at the respective end of the ground where a team is

warming up with social distancing in place

- A maximum of 4 people will be allowed in each dug out. Substitutes for both sides will be seated at the front of the main stand behind each dug out with social distancing being observed
- Home substitutes are to warm up to the right-hand side of the dug outs, away substitutes are to warm up to the left-hand side of the dug outs. Social distancing should be maintained.
- Goal posts will be wiped down before and after matches
- Goal celebrations and hugging should be avoided at all times
- During any break in play social distancing must be observed
- Half time breaks will require players to stay out on the pitch unless requiring treatment for injuries. Team talks will need to be held at the respective end of the pitch that the team was defending during the first half.
- Players are required to bring their own water bottles
- When the ball goes out of play it should be retrieved using feet not hands and where possible completed by a non-participant.
- Officials payments will be made by bank transfer where possible.
- Players are encouraged to turn their face away from any person when shouting or raising their voices

- Spitting is prohibited
- All clubs must observe the FA Code of behaviour in relation to Covid-19
- PPE will be required for physios when treating injuries
- Players should use hand sanitiser at both half time and full time
- Post-match all equipment should be washed down, kit is required to be put into the laundry basket by each individual player and the person responsible for kit (club kitman) should ensure they are wearing PPE when handling kit and do so for as brief of a time as possible. Kit will be washed within a maximum of 24 hours.

## **ONE WAY SYSTEM**

Keys Park stadium will have a one-way system in operation that will be clearly marked out throughout the main stand building. All persons are to keep the left-hand side of any walkway or corridor within the main building. We will also request that all persons within the building wear a face covering.

## **SUPPORTERS**

### **TICKETING**

Hednesford Town Football Club have taken the decision that all ticketing for fixtures at Keys Park will be made through our online booking procedure. We will assess along with visiting clubs to determine a suitable allocation for away supporters and these will also be available via the away supporters section of our ticketing area within the website.

### **HOME SUPPORTERS**

Home supporters will enter the stadium via turnstile 3A and 3B located at the chase bar side of the main stand. All supporters will have completed their track and trace documentation online. On the rare occasion we have a game where we are operating a pay on the gate system then supporters will be required to provide this information prior to entering the stadium. **ANYONE FAILING TO PROVIDE TRACK AND TRACE INFORMATION WILL BE REFUSED ENTRY TO THE STADIUM.**

Additionally please note all supporters will be temperature checked and anyone with a temperature above 38c will be refused entry to the stadium.

### *SEASON TICKET HOLDERS*

Season ticket holders are permitted to utilise the main stand seating area, the Wimblebury terrace and the Heath Hates End.

### *NON SEASON TICKET HOLDERS*

Non season ticket holders are permitted to utilise the Wimblebury terrace and the heath hayes end. Additionally any ticket holder who requires a seat (elderly or unable to stand for the duration of the game) should speak to a gate steward who will allow entry to the main stand under these conditions. All stands are subject to a maximum capacity.

Home supporters will have a designated food outlet, access to the Chase suite bar pre match, at half time and at full time. PLEASE NOTE HEDNESFORD TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB IS NOT PERMITTED TO ALLOW SUPPORTERS TO TAKE ALCOHOL INTO THE STANDS AND THEREFORE ALL ALCOHOL IS LIMITED TO THE BAR AREA ONLY.

Home supporters also have access to the club shop however this is limited to no more than 2 people in the shop at any one time. There will be a 70 person capacity within The Chase Suite and it will be a one in one out system once this capacity is reached.

### **VISITING SUPPORTERS**

Hednesford Town Football Club have made the decision that all games will be segregated for the foreseeable future, this is with the various different infection rates across the country it is felt that the best way to avoid the potential for increases in the local area is to segregate visiting supporters. This situation will be reviewed as times goes on as the situation develops and hopefully improves.

At present all visiting supporters will be housed in the Hednesford End stand which has both covered seating and uncovered standing areas. Should the need be to increase the standing allocation a small section of the Wimblebury terrace will be made available to visiting supporters but this will only be where it is felt necessary.

Visiting supporters will enter via Entrances 2A and 2B located via the main stand, this will take them straight into the ground where there are dedicated away supporters, toilets and a refreshment area. Additionally please note all supporters will be temperature checked and anyone with a temperature above 38c will be refused entry to the stadium.

We also offer a bar service for visiting supporters within strikers bar which can be entered via the one way system in the visiting supporters area. PLEASE NOTE HEDNESFORD TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB IS NOT PERMITTED TO ALLOW SUPPORTERS TO TAKE ALCOHOL INTO THE STANDS AND THEREFORE ALL ALCOHOL IS LIMITED TO THE BAR AREA ONLY. There will be a 40 person capacity within Strikers bar and it will be a one in one out system once this capacity is reached. This bar shuts following half time and will not reopen again at Full time for visiting supporters.

### **GENERAL SUPPORTER RULES**

All supporters are encouraged to arrive at the stadium as early as possible in order to ensure safety around the stadium. Those arriving in vehicles will be directed to a particular space by car park stewards in order to ensure safety for those entering turnstiles within the stadium.

With ever changing guidance on face coverings, we will be in line with the relevant guidance at the time however even if not mandatory by law we will encourage all supporters to wear a face covering when attending the stadium, if required to by law then entry to the stadium will only be granted when wearing a face covering.

Trained stewards who have experience in both crowd control and social distancing queue management from Lionheart Security Services will be on hand to ensure social distancing is maintained whilst ensuring safety at all times. All supporters will be required to hand sanitise upon entering the stadium. Stewards will also be manning the toilets at Keys Park in order to ensure social distancing is maintained.

A clear one-way system will be in operation for each stand and will be clearly signed throughout the stand, again our security and stewarding team will be on hand to assist throughout.

At the end of the match supporters will leave using one of 6 exit gates within the stadium, stewards will again be in hand to ensure social distancing during the exit process and within the car park area of the stadium.

Residential and Commercial Engineering LTD have completed a social distanced assessment of the stadium with a reduced capacity under the 2-metre rule of 1134.

## **SUMMARY**

Since the club were taken over in May 2020 during the national lockdown, Hednesford Town Football Club have been operating a fluid approach to the ever changing landscape of the country and as such we are confident in our ability to deliver football at the PRG Stadium @Keys Park in a safe and social distanced manner both during the period where supporters weren't present and now where supporters are welcomed back into the stadium. As always our staff within the stadium will operate with a fluid attitude towards the situation and adapt accordingly. All staff have undergone social distance training relevant to their roles at the football club and we are also confident our supporters will apply common sense throughout the situation in order to ensure the safety of others at Hednesford Town Football Club. We have successfully delivered a socially distanced 'beer garden' within the Main Stand as well as having utilised both bars under social distanced measures and we are confident that what we have learned from this both positive and negative will be a further indication of our ability to deliver football to supporters within a socially distanced setting.