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## ITF RETURN TO INTERNATIONAL TENNIS PROTOCOLS

### EXPLANATORY NOTES FOR PARTICIPANTS

*Last updated: 20 August 2021*

#### Introduction

This document is intended to provide supporting information for the ITF *Return to International Tennis Protocols* for participants, and is intended to be read together with that document. Participants are advised to read both documents and to familiarise themselves with the relevant amendments to the regulations for the tournament(s) in question.

SECTION	EXPLANATORY NOTE
<b>Eligibility to host an ITF tournament</b>	
1	For the avoidance of doubt, local or national (as applicable) government legislation and guidance in the host country takes primacy over these protocols only where it imposes <i>more</i> stringent standards or restrictions (otherwise, these protocols shall be applied). Accordingly, where such legislation or guidance prohibits a tournament from being held for any reason, then no ITF tournament in that location will be permitted.
2	‘Sufficient’ refers to the number of countries from which the host nation is accessible. ‘Reasonable’ refers to the restrictions imposed at the point of entry (e.g. quarantine). At the time of application, host organisers must notify the ITF of access restrictions and keep the ITF updated as to any changes in those restrictions. This includes details of any waivers that permit access to the host country to participants, which are not generally available.
3	Failure to meet any of the minimum standards in the ‘risk mitigation’ section is subject to sanction under the Code of Conduct of the relevant ITF tour regulations.

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SECTION	EXPLANATORY NOTE
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## ITF tournament framework during the Covid-19 pandemic

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1	This applies to all participants (except for those who require essential physical assistance, in which case the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (known as 'PPE') must be used where physical distancing is not possible), to reduce the risk of transmission of Covid-19 by the avoidance of close and prolonged contact. Physical distancing requirements shall, as a minimum, meet the requirements of the relevant authorities of the host location. Where no minimum is specified by the relevant authorities, or where that minimum is less than 1 metre, the minimum physical distancing shall be 1 metre (except for vulnerable individuals, for whom the minimum is 2 metres). To avoid creating confusion for other participants, physical distancing must be practised by members of the same household.
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2	Personal hygiene includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Regular hand-washing or hand-sanitising;</li> <li>- Not touching your face;</li> <li>- Coughing into your elbow, or a tissue and immediately discarding it;</li> <li>- Wearing a face covering where appropriate</li> </ul>
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3	These methods may include testing or screening. (See 'risk mitigation' section).
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SECTION	EXPLANATORY NOTE
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## Compliance

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1	<p>Tournament organisers and all participants are collectively responsible for reducing the risk of Covid-19 transmission. Failure to comply with any requirement places the health of other participants at an elevated risk of infection.</p> <p>Failure to comply by players and/or their support personnel may result in a sanction under the ITF Code of Conduct including a fine and/or immediate default, and removal from the tournament (and subsequent tournaments), at the sole discretion of the ITF.</p> <p>The Tournament Supervisor is responsible for monitoring and enforcing failures to comply with the requirements in this document by players and player support personnel.</p>
SECTION	EXPLANATORY NOTE
<b>Risk Mitigation</b>	
1	<p>Participants are advised to follow their own government's advice prior to travelling, and follow local requirements on arrival, including maintaining physical distancing and personal hygiene. Some host countries may require negative Covid-19 PCR (or equivalent) tests.</p> <p>Any Covid-19 testing should be a PCR test. Participants should only travel to a tournament if the test returns a negative result.</p> <p>PCR tests may return 'false negatives', and so a negative result does not guarantee that the person concerned is not infected with Covid-19.</p>
2	<p>Confirmation of acceptance of and compliance with the ITF Return to International Tennis Protocols will be required on entry to a tournament, on application for accreditation, or on arrival on-site.</p>
5	<p>Participants are advised to pack sufficient face coverings, sanitiser (conforming to maximum allowable volumes), hand wipes and tissues in their hand luggage, so that these items are available to them at all times. For long journeys, a thermometer is also recommended.</p> <p>Participants are advised to anticipate physical contact and/or close contact during their journey, and try to avoid them, as far as possible.</p>

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| 6  | Time spent in shared-access locations may increase the risk of transmission, particularly where physical distancing and hygiene precautions are not observed.   |
| 7  | Where sleeping accommodation is shared with anyone from outside a household, ventilation using a fresh air supply should be maintained to the greatest reasonable extent.   |
| 8  | If it is not possible to avoid dining in publicly-accessible locations, eat outdoors and ensure that physical distancing and personal hygiene are maintained throughout. Ideally, all meals would be taken in the tournament hotel (preferably in-room dining, but alternatively delivery/take-away). |
| 9  | Where a participant has Covid-19 symptoms or has been exposed to Covid-19, they must remain in their accommodation/hotel room and contact the tournament Covid-19 Officer.  |
| 10 | If a participant is in any doubt about whether they have Covid-19 symptoms, and so whether they should attend the tournament site, they should contact the Covid-19 Officer or the Tournament/Independent Doctor prior to leaving their accommodation.  |
| 11 | Participants should avoid public transport and travelling in vehicles for extended periods (more than 15 minutes) with multiple occupants, where that vehicle is unventilated and/or un-sanitised.  |
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Failure to comply with testing (including any additional testing imposed by location government) will result in the person concerned being denied entry to the site and not being permitted to participate in any ITF tournament until such time that they comply with those requirements in full.

Due to the rate of false negatives associated with antigen (PCR or equivalent) tests, negative test does not offset a failure to meet the requirements of screening.

Where a participant has (a) a certified positive SARS-Cov-2 RT-PCR test that was taken between 10 days and 90 days prior to arrival at the event in question, or (b) a certified positive IgG antibody test that was taken within 30 days prior to arrival at the event in question, or (c) been fully vaccinated (at least 14 days previously) against Covid-19 with a vaccine named on the World Health Organisation list of approved vaccines ([www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/covid-19-vaccines/advice](http://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/covid-19-vaccines/advice)) and does not have Covid-19 symptoms that are not otherwise explained and verified by an infectious disease specialist, that participant will be exempt from testing and screening protocols for the duration of the event (**Exempt Participants**), except daily self-declarations, which all Participants must complete. In order to benefit from exemption, the participant must provide a copy of their positive Covid-19 test certificate, IgG antibody test or vaccination certificate to the Covid-19 Officer, with a copy to the ITF (to Covid19@itftennis.com, with the subject line 'Covid-19 Exemption') in advance. Failure to provide a certificate in advance may result in the participant being subject to (a) testing and screening during the tie and (b) the relevant follow-up protocols in the event that that testing returns a positive result or a failed screen. Any requirements imposed in relation to testing and screening by the Local Health Authorities (LHA) that are more stringent than these protocols take precedence.

The exemptions described above do not over-ride any local requirements.

**Exemptions are at all times conditional on the Participant remaining asymptomatic. If any Exempt Participant displays any Covid-19 symptoms (as described in the daily self-declarations), then their status as an Exempt Participant shall be revoked and shall not be reinstated unless and until the Independent Doctor rules out infection with Covid-19.**

'Exposed' refers to anyone who has been in close contact with the affected individual within the previous 48 hours of the onset of the affected individual's symptoms. A Close Contact is defined as: anyone with the following exposure to a confirmed Covid-19 case, from 2 days before to 14 days after the confirmed case's onset of illness (defined as the date of the positive test): being face-to-face within 1 metre for a total of at least 15 minutes; direct physical contact. For the avoidance

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of doubt, anyone living in or sharing the same household or household-like setting (e.g. hotel room, apartment or hostel) is automatically classed as a Close Contact.

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12            The return to competition will be determined as described in the case management protocol (available as a separate document).

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13            Players must speak to the Supervisor of the event in person. Leaving a voicemail is not sufficient.

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14            As an example, a physiotherapist will not typically meet the definition of providing “essential physical assistance” and so will not be permitted as a second accompanying support person on-site, as physiotherapy can be provided off site. For the avoidance of doubt, any additional support person beyond the one permitted must have been approved in writing in advance by the ITF.

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15            ITF practice and match protocols are available as a supporting document. In addition, where a positive Covid-19 result for a Player is received during a match, the Referee shall immediately withdraw the Player from the match, irrespective of the score.

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16            Showers are permitted only after matches and only where:  
                 - Physical distancing can be maintained;  
                 - Where the player is competing in more than one match in a day and during team events.

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Where the locker room includes the team lounge, the shower area must be physically separated from all other parts of the lounge.

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