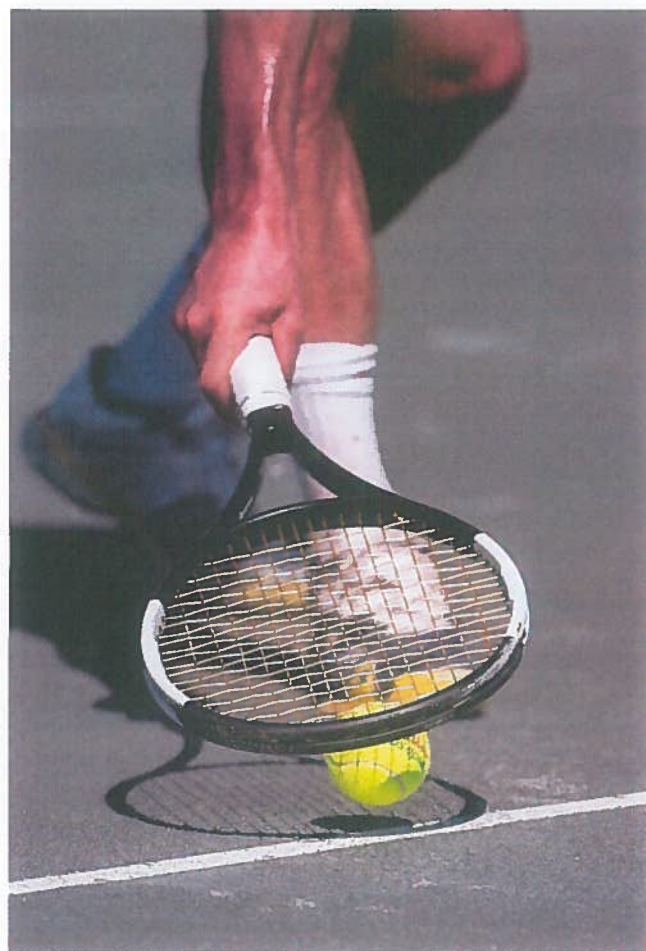


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**RETURN TO  
INTERNATIONAL TENNIS  
PROTOCOLS –  
TOURNAMENT HOSTS**

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**22 July 2021**

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**INTERNATIONAL TENNIS FEDERATION**



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## RETURN TO INTERNATIONAL TENNIS PROTOCOLS

### Foreword

In order to support a safe return to international tennis tournaments, the ITF has devised protocols that all tournament hosts and participants must follow, to mitigate the risk of exposure to, and spread of, Covid-19.

This document applies to all ITF-owned and sanctioned tennis tournaments, including Junior Team competitions, World Tennis Tour Mens, Womens and Juniors, Beach Tennis, Seniors and Wheelchair Tennis, with effect from 1 August 2020.

All ITF tournaments and participants (which includes players, support personnel, officials, tournament staff, contractors and any other credentialed individual) must comply with the requirements set out in this document.

Information regarding Covid-19 is constantly changing. The information provided in this document is not intended to be a substitute for guidance provided by local, national or international government and health organizations. The ITF makes no representation as to, and assumes no responsibility for, the accuracy or completeness of the information contained in this document in respect of its effectiveness in preventing or controlling the spread of Covid-19.

The Tournament Director is responsible for ensuring the welfare of all persons attending a tournament. This document provides the ITF's guidance regarding the minimum standards that a tournament must implement in order to safeguard the welfare of participants. A tournament may impose higher standards than those described in this document where it considers it appropriate to do so, or where so required by local legislation (although there may be cost implications for the tournament, as set out in the Explanatory Notes, which is available as a separate document). For the avoidance of doubt, nothing in these protocols preclude the implementation of precautions that aim to manage the risk arising from Covid-19 on an individual or group basis. The Tournament Director must ensure that each tournament is conducted in accordance with these protocols as published at the time of the tournament.

This document is subject to change and may be amended from time to time at the discretion of the ITF. The ITF will make the latest version available on its website: [www.itftennis.com](http://www.itftennis.com). Any questions regarding this document should be addressed to the ITF at [covid19@itftennis.com](mailto:covid19@itftennis.com).

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## **Introduction**

The overall objective of this document is to describe the measures that are necessary to protect the health and safety of participants in ITF tournaments. By setting out those measures, participants in all tournaments covered by this document can be confident that the appropriate measures are being taken and have the benefit of a consistent approach.

**The ITF *Return to International Tennis Protocols* comprise four sections:**

### **1. ELIGIBILITY TO HOST A TOURNAMENT**

This section describes the criteria by which the ITF will decide whether a tournament is eligible to be added to the ITF calendar.

### **2. ITF TOURNAMENT FRAMEWORK**

This section sets out the ITF's guidance, recommendations and minimum standards that all tournaments must meet in order to adequately protect the health and safety of participants in relation to Covid-19.

### **3. COMPLIANCE**

The framework by which any failures to meet the minimum standards are described in this section

### **4. RISK MITIGATION**

This section sets out the measures that are required to reduce the risk to participants of Covid-19 transmission

## **How to use this document**

The information in this document describes the main requirements for tournament hosts when organising international tennis tournaments during the Covid-19 pandemic. All tournament hosts are advised to read this document together with the relevant explanatory notes (available as a separate document), and to familiarise themselves with the relevant amendments to the regulations for the tournament(s) in question.

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## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Eligibility to host an ITF tournament

In order to be eligible for addition to the ITF calendar, the following criteria must be met:

1. Government legislation must permit a tennis event to be held in the host country.
2. The host nation's borders must be open to international visitors, giving sufficient and reasonable access to that nation to players, as determined by the ITF.
3. Each host organiser must, on application to host a tournament, confirm that it will implement the minimum standards set out in the 'risk mitigation' section of this document.

### ITF tournament framework during the Covid-19 pandemic

The framework below forms the basis for the minimum standards that all tournaments must meet in order to adequately protect the health and safety of participants in relation to Covid-19.

1. Physical distancing must be respected at all times by all participants and spectators.
2. Personal hygiene measures must be taken by all participants.
3. Methods of identifying potential cases of Covid-19 prior to entry to the tournament site and of identifying participants who may have been exposed to Covid-19 during a tournament must be implemented.
4. Consideration must be given to additional protection for vulnerable individuals.
5. The minimum number of participants required for the tournament to operate should be permitted on-site.
6. Players and support personnel must isolate from other participants and spectators, to the greatest possible extent.
7. The Referee has sole discretion to cancel a tournament in progress for Covid-19-related reasons.

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## Compliance

1. Effective implementation of the minimum standards for hosting tournaments requires a programme of monitoring and, where those standards are not met, enforcement.

## Risk mitigation

The Covid-19 virus presents an elevated health risk to all participants. Steps to reduce that risk must be taken by all ITF tournaments and participants. Relevant areas in which an elevated risk may exist, and the minimum standards and/or recommendations for mitigation of those risks, are set out below.

*Note: nothing in this document precludes tournaments from going beyond the minimum specified standards where it considers it appropriate to do so, or where so required by local legislation.*

## RETURN TO INTERNATIONAL TENNIS PROTOCOLS INFORMATION FOR TOURNAMENT HOSTS

### Pre-event

1. A Covid-19 Officer must be appointed and identified to the ITF.
2. A risk assessment, relevant to the context of the tournament, and describing the Covid-19 risk factors and mitigation measures that will be taken to protect the health of participants, must be completed in advance of the tournament.
3. Details of a local location (i.e. hospital, testing centre etc.) that provides Covid-19 testing services must be made available to participants at participants' expense.
4. Tournament hosts should make reasonable efforts to obtain insurance to cover cancellation of the tournament due to Covid-19.
5. Tournament hosts should make available to participants relevant information about local requirements and restrictions.
6. Tournament hosts are strongly encouraged to liaise with the relevant authorities to explore ways in which any quarantine requirements for participants upon entry to the host country can be relaxed, or alternative less time-consuming access methods applied.

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## Off-site

7. Where possible, tournaments should offer a hotel that is dedicated (or has a dedicated section) for tournament participants, located close to the tournament venue.
8. The maximum capacity of tournament vehicles must be as dictated by the appropriate physical distancing requirements. Face coverings must be used by the driver and all passengers. Tournament-provided transport that is used by participants must not be available for use by any other person.
9. Physical distancing must be maintained prior to entry to the site, including by spectators. Hand-washing with soap and water or sanitiser must be made available at all entry points.

## Site access

10. All participants must complete a daily self-declaration of being Covid-19 symptom-free and not having had any high-risk contacts in the last 14 days and be subject to daily temperature screening. Only those participants who comply with, and meet the requirements of, screening are permitted on-site.
11. Case management and notification protocols must be implemented if a participant does not meet the requirements of the screening, or if any person reports being positive for Covid-19 or reports Covid-19 symptoms within 14 days of the date on which they left the tournament venue.
12. Tournament hosts must retain contact details (email address and mobile phone number) of all participants for a limited period after the tournament, to facilitate the identification and/or notification of those who have or may have been exposed to an affected individual.

## On-site

13. Tournament staff/security must be trained to implement Covid-19 procedures, including (where the role involves close contact, such as during bag searches) the use of Personal Protective Equipment (known as 'PPE') at all relevant times, including site entry and exit and indoors.
14. All sign-in must be remote (online/telephone).
15. The fewest number of on-court officials required to provide the appropriate level of officiating must be used (as per *ITF Officiating Requirements*).

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Spectators are only permitted where permitted by local authorities~~approved in advance by the ITF~~, and if permitted must be isolated from participants to the greatest extent possible.

16. Only essential staff movement around the site must be permitted.
17. Adequate ventilation must be provided in all high-use, multiple-occupancy indoor spaces, where possible.
18. For all events and functions, physical distancing and personal hygiene must be respected throughout.
19. In all on-site amenities and locations (team benches, hospitality, player dining; player/team lounge, tournament offices), physical distancing and hygiene must be respected at all times.
20. Media are permitted on-site (including journalists, TV camera operators, live scoring etc.), but must comply with physical distancing, hygiene and screening requirements.
21. No visitor may enter the site perimeter boundary, within which access is controlled, unless they are subject to the same screening requirements as participants.
22. All areas of the tournament venue that are used by participants should be subject to regular and sufficiently frequent disinfecting.
23. Adequate on-site signage must be provided as an aid to compliance with physical distancing and hygiene precautions at all key points around the venue, but particularly in the toilets and areas where surfaces are likely to be touched.

## Competition

24. ITF practice and match protocols must be implemented.
25. Use of locker rooms (including for players, officials and ball persons) must be determined by the available space, such that physical distancing can be maintained at all times. No player support personnel are permitted in locker rooms, except for support personnel required to provide essential physical assistance.
26. Non-Covid-19 medical treatment will be limited to the reasonable time necessary for completion.
27. Anti-doping staff (where present) must comply with physical distancing, hygiene measures and daily screening.



## ITF RETURN TO INTERNATIONAL TENNIS PROTOCOLS PRACTICE AND MATCH PROTOCOLS, INCLUDING TOWEL POLICY

*Note: this protocol is subject to change, without notice. Last updated – 22 January 2021.*

Practice and match protocols are designed to reduce the risk of transmission of Covid-19, by ensuring that all relevant hygiene precautions are taken and, where possible, physical distancing is maintained.

*Note: On-court personnel are not required under these protocols to wear masks, face coverings or gloves (unless required by tournament organisers or local authorities). Physical distancing and hygiene requirements are mandatory at all times. For the avoidance of doubt, ball persons are permitted on-court. Players should not use tennis balls to cover their mouths when talking to their doubles partner.*

Where masks are required during practice and/or matches, the following guidance<sup>1</sup> is given:

- Do choose a mask that
  - o Has two or more layers of washable, breathable fabric
  - o Completely covers the nose and mouth
  - o Fits snugly against the sides of the face and doesn't have gaps
- Do not choose a mask that
  - o Is made of fabric that makes it hard to breathe (for example, vinyl)
  - o Has exhalation valves or vents which allow virus particles to escape
  - o Is intended for healthcare workers, including N95 respirators or surgical masks, where those masks are in short supply

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### COMMON PROTOCOLS

### COMMENT

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#### General

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Players should arrive at the venue as close to their allotted starting time as is reasonable, unless the locker rooms are in use and physical distancing can be maintained.

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Players should depart as soon as reasonably possible after his/her match, unless

- Locker rooms are in use and physical distancing can be maintained;
- The player is competing in another match on the same day;

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<sup>1</sup> Based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Accessed at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html> on 22 January 2021.



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- The player is part of a team.

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All on-court personnel (particularly players) should avoid raising their voices when facing each other.

*Covid-19 droplets are likely to be propelled further when voices are raised.*

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Physical distancing shall be maintained by all on-court personnel at all times.

*The only exceptions to this are (a) incidental and unavoidable contact during doubles, (b) court calls for medical assistance and (c) to assist wheelchair players (such assistance to be limited to player support personnel).*

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All personal items must be removed from the court, following use.

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Where a tournament provides disposable (e.g. drinks) or single-use (e.g. towels) items, designated locations to discard these following use must be provided.

*Tournaments should be prepared for an increased demand for disposable items and towels.*

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No shared-use items should be provided.

*This would include drinks coolers, unless hands-free access is provided.*

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## **Physical distancing**

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Maintain physical distancing throughout.

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## Personal hygiene

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Players shall not share any equipment.

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Players may mark and divide the balls in use, to allow use of separate balls when serving;

*Balls are shared equipment. Players should avoid handling the balls to the greatest reasonable extent.*

*Where fewer than 6 balls are being used at any time, this protocol may be impractical and need not be considered.*

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Sanitiser, disinfecting wipes and tissues should be available for all on-court personnel.

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## Court hygiene

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Disinfect all court fixtures between every practice/match.

*This includes players' and officials' chairs, chair umpires' scoring devices, towel holders and drinks coolers, coolers, ball box, net posts and strap, and team and ITF seating. Ball persons' cushions should be replaced with new ones.*

*NAs must ensure that they have enough cleaning staff employed to undertake the cleaning in the minimum time required, and no longer than ten minutes when there is another match due on court*

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Provide hygiene notices for players, officials and spectators.

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Where on-court supplies (drinks, ice, towels, etc.) are provided, these should be replaced or disinfected before and after matches.

*All on-court food and drink must be removed and replenished after every match.*

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**PRACTICE PROTOCOLS****COMMENT**

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**General**

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Only remote bookings (online or telephone) are permitted.

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**MATCH PROTOCOLS****COMMENT**

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**General**

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Adjoining courts may be used simultaneously for practice and match play, providing that physical distancing requirements are met at all times.

*Entry and exit points should permit physical distancing. Court equipment and seating on adjacent courts should not be placed back-to-back.*

*One person should be responsible for ball changes and should wash or sanitise their hands before and after doing so. Disinfecting the ball cans prior to opening is recommended.*

Ball numbers and changes shall be maintained as set out in the relevant regulations.

*Until there is evidence of a significant threat to the transmission of Covid-19 via tennis balls, repeated use of balls is not prohibited, although single use is recommended. Where balls are used repeatedly and a 'rest period' between successive uses is adopted, a minimum period of 72 hours is recommended.*

All on-court and post-match activities (including opening and closing ceremonies, trophy presentations and interviews) must comply with physical distancing requirements.

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On-court officials are not required to wear gloves or face coverings, but must maintain personal hygiene at all times.

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## Physical distancing

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### Pre-match

- Provide a pre-match holding area that permits physical distancing (where necessary);
  - No player should escort ball persons or other individual onto court;
  - During the pre-match coin toss;
  - By avoiding a pre-match handshake;
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The fewest number of on-court officials (including ball persons) required to provide the appropriate level of officiating must be used (as per ITF Officiating Requirements).

*Any request to depart from the ITF Officiating Requirements must be approved in advance by the ITF. Accommodation that permits physical distancing must be provided for the use of officials between assignments.*

*For Davis Cup (DC) and Billie Jean King Cup (BJKC), the required number of on-court officials, unless agreed otherwise by the ITF, is:*

- *Qualifier ties, DC & BJKC Play-Offs and DC Group I: 7;*
- *DC Group II ties: 5*
- *BJKC Regional Group Events: 5*
- *DC Regional Group Events: 3*

*The number of ball persons to be used in DC and BJKC events will depend on the court size and the level of the tie or event. The number that the NA is asked to provide will be advised by the ITF no later than ten weeks ahead of the ties / events.*

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### During the match

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- During changeovers, avoid crossing the net at the same time and ideally should cross on different sides;
  - Ball persons do not hold umbrellas or provide other services for players during changeovers;
  - Players' chairs should be separated from the Chair Umpire by a minimum of 2 metres;
  - Players and Chair Umpires should remain separated by a horizontal distance of 2 metres at all time;
  - Where on-court coaching is permitted, the coach and player(s) should maintain physical separation at all times;

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#### After the match

- Avoid a post-match handshake with the opponent or Chair Umpire;
- Do not take selfies with spectators or sign autographs or throw/give any personal items to spectators.

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## Personal hygiene

The ITF Towel policy shall be implemented.

### ITF TOWEL POLICY

1. Players must handle their own towels exclusively, i.e. do not request towels from, or give their towels to, ball persons at any point during the match.
2. Ball persons (and officials) are instructed to not handle players' towels at any time during a match.
3. Players are solely responsible for their towels during changeover (to be enforced by the Chair Umpire).
4. Designated locations for towels should be identified on each court, making certain that each player is using a different location for their towel at each end of the court.



5. Following every match, the towel area must be disinfected.
6. Where tournaments provide towels, a central location in which used towels can be discarded must be provided. Do not shake towels.
7. All towels provided by the tournament must be laundered after each match/practice at the highest appropriate temperature and dry thoroughly before further use.

**ITF RETURN TO INTERNATIONAL TENNIS PROTOCOLS  
DAILY SCREENING AND SELF-DECLARATIONS**

*Note: this protocol is subject to change. Last amended – 1 March 2021.*

Precautions must be taken to reduce the risk of transmission of Covid-19 at ITF tournaments, including Davis Cup and Billie Jean King Cup (“Tournaments”). One element of this is to check whether participants have any of the main Covid-19 symptoms. All participants should have their temperature checked using an infra-red thermometer, and be asked the questions below on a daily basis prior to entering the Tournament venue.

THE TABLE BELOW MUST BE COMPLETED FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS DAILY

	Result	
	Under 38°C	38°C and above
<b>Part 1 – Temperature screen</b>		
<b>Part 2 – Self-declaration questions</b>		
Do you have any of the following symptoms of Covid-19?		
Fever (38°C and above).	No	Yes
New or persistent cough.	No	Yes
A change or loss in your senses of taste or smell.	No	Yes
Fatigue	No	Yes
Cold-like symptoms.	No	Yes
Congestion or runny nose.	No	Yes
Sore throat.	No	Yes
Have you in the past 14 days been diagnosed with Covid-19 or had any of the above symptoms of Covid-19?	No	Yes
Have you in the past 14 days been in close contact* with anyone who has Covid-19 or Covid-19 symptoms?	No	Yes

*\*Close contact refers to: being face-to-face within 1 metre for a total of at least 15 minutes; direct physical contact; living in or sharing the same household or household-like setting (e.g. hotel room, apartment or hostel).*

**Only those participants who have a measured temperature of below 38°C and who answer ‘no’ to ALL of the self-declaration questions are permitted on-site. Any participant who has a measured temperature of 38°C or answers ‘yes’ to any of the questions must not be permitted on-site. The decision to deny access is final and cannot be appealed.**

Records of attendance on-site will be retained by the ITF, and will be shared with Tournament staff for monitoring access to the tournament site during the Tournament period only and otherwise as required by law. Records will be kept securely and retained only for as long as is necessary for the ITF to manage the risk of Covid-19 at ITF Tournaments and events. For more information about how and why the ITF collects, processes and stores your personal data in response to Covid-19, please see the ITF’s Covid-19 Privacy Notice, which is available on the ITF website at [www.itftennis.com](http://www.itftennis.com).

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

## ITF RETURN TO INTERNATIONAL TENNIS PROTOCOLS USE OF INFRARED THERMOMETERS

*Note: this protocol is subject to change, without notice. Last updated – 29 October 2020.*

The temperature of all participants must be checked daily prior to entry to the site. The use of a non-contact infrared thermometer (**NCITs**) is required for this purpose, as it avoids direct contact. This document describes the protocol for temperature screening at ITF tournaments.

### Benefits of using NCITs

- The risk of transmission of Covid-19 is reduced (compared to contact thermometers) by allowing some separation between the participant and the NCIT user;
- They are simple to use;
- NCITs are easy to disinfect;
- Results are available quickly and easy to interpret;
- Repeated measures can be taken quickly.

### Limitations of NCITs

- The temperature reading may be affected by the use of a NCIT.
- The use of NCITs necessarily brings the user and the person being screened into close proximity, which presents some risk of transmission. Incorrect use can increase that risk.

### Temperature measurement

*Note: the instructions below are generic. The manufacturer's instructions should be followed.*

#### **Preparation**

- Temperatures should be measured in a sheltered area, out of direct sunlight.
- Ensure that the ambient conditions are within the acceptable range for the NCIT.
- Store the NCIT in the measurement location for sufficient time for it to adjust to the environment.
- Clean the NCIT between periods of use, following manufacturer's instructions.
- Ensure that the NCIT has a direct view of the forehead, with no blockage.
- Advise participants to not wear items that could increase the temperature of the forehead (e.g. headbands, hoods).
- Ensure that the participant does not artificially reduce the forehead temperature (e.g. using ice) before the measurement is taken.
- The same brand/model of NCIT should be used at all entrance points.

#### **Collection**



- A suitably-trained tournament employee must collect temperatures. (Local law may require a medical professional for this purpose).
- Hold the NCIT perpendicular to the forehead, not from the side.
- Ensure the correct distance between the NCIT and the forehead (according to the manufacturer).
- Hold the NCIT at arm's length.
- Do not touch the NCIT sensor.
- Record the result as either 'pass' or 'fail'. Do not record the actual temperature.

#### Acceptable readings

Participants with a temperature of under 38°C (100.4°F) should be permitted access to the site.

#### Action on failure

Any participant with a temperature of 38°C (100.4°F) or above should be (a) shown the reading on the display and (b) subject to a second measurement, under the following conditions:

- After a delay of at least 15 minutes.
- After resting between measurements.
- After the participant has been out of direct sunlight.
- In a separate location (where possible).

If the second measurement is also 38°C or above, then the participant concerned must not be permitted access to the site. If that person is already on-site, then they should be evacuated to their accommodation in accordance with the *ITF Management of Covid-19 Cases at the Tournament Venue Protocol* (which may still be followed if the accommodation is within the perimeter of the site).

If the second measurement is below 38°C, then the participant may be admitted to the site. If the second reading is noticeably lower than the first, but not below 38°C, then a third and final reading may be taken, with a further delay of at least 15 minutes. If the third reading is below 38°C, then the participant may be admitted to the site.



#### Example product

Search 'contactless and digital infrared thermometer'. Thermometers that carry the local quality assurance mark (e.g. 'CE' mark in Europe) should be used, where possible.

#### References

<https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/general-hospital-devices-and-supplies/non-contact-infrared-thermometers>



## ITF RETURN TO INTERNATIONAL TENNIS PROTOCOLS RECOMMENDED PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE), HYGIENE AND CLEANING

*Note: this protocol is subject to change, without notice. Last updated – 22 July 2020.*

### Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Tournaments must make available for the use of relevant staff an adequate supply of:

- Disposable face coverings;
- Single or sessional use fluid-resistant surgical masks;
- Single or sessional use eye/face protection;
- Disposable plastic aprons;
- Disposable gloves.

### Hygiene

Tournaments must make available for the use of participants and spectators an adequate supply of:

- Hand sanitiser (at least 60% alcohol content);
- Alcohol-based wipes (at least 70% alcohol);
- Tissues;
- Face coverings.

All participants must:

- Wash or sanitise their hands regularly and frequently;
- Wear a face covering when indoors and in close proximity to others (including when using transport), and at all times on-site, except during practice, matches, during gym sessions (unless physical distancing cannot be maintained) and when using showers;
- Catch coughs and sneezes in tissues and discard them immediately.

### Cleaning<sup>1</sup>

Tournaments must ensure regular and frequent cleaning.

#### *PPE*

The minimum PPE to be worn for cleaning an area after a person with symptoms of, or confirmed COVID-19 has left the setting possible is disposable gloves and an apron. Wash hands with soap and water for 20 seconds after all PPE has been removed.

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<sup>1</sup> COVID-19: cleaning in non-healthcare settings outside the home. Accessed on 23 July 2020 at [www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings#left-area](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings#left-area).

If a risk assessment of the setting indicates that a higher level of virus may be present (for example, where someone unwell has spent a significant time in a particular location on-site), then additional PPE to protect the cleaner's eyes, mouth and nose may be necessary. The local public health authorities can advise on this.

#### *Cleaning and disinfection*

- a combined detergent disinfectant solution at a dilution of 1,000 parts per million available chlorine, or a household detergent followed by disinfection at a dilution of 1,000 parts per million available chlorine. (Follow the manufacturer's instructions for dilution, application and contact times for all detergents and disinfectants);
- An alternative disinfectant that it is effective against enveloped viruses.

Avoid mixing cleaning products together as this can create toxic fumes. Avoid creating splashes and spray when cleaning.

Any cloths and mop heads used must be disposed of and should be put into waste bags.

#### *Laundry*

When items cannot be cleaned using detergents or laundered, for example, upholstered furniture and mattresses, steam cleaning should be used.

Wash items in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Use the warmest water setting and dry items completely. Dirty laundry that has been in contact with an unwell person can be washed with other people's items. To minimise the possibility of dispersing virus through the air, do not shake dirty laundry prior to washing.

Clean and disinfect anything used for transporting laundry with your usual products, in line with the cleaning guidance above.

#### *Waste*

Personal waste from individuals with symptoms of COVID-19 and waste from cleaning of areas where they have been (including PPE, disposable cloths and used tissues):

- Should be put in a plastic rubbish bag and tied when full;
- The plastic bag should then be placed in a second bin bag and tied;
- This should be put in a suitable and secure place and marked for storage until the individual's test results are known.

This waste should be stored safely and kept away from children. It should not be placed in communal waste areas until negative test results are known, or the waste has been stored for at least 72 hours.

If the individual tests negative, this can be put indisposed of immediately with the normal waste.

If Covid-19 is confirmed, then this waste should be stored for at least 72 hours before disposal with normal waste.

If during an emergency you need to remove the waste before 72 hours, it must be treated as Category B infectious waste. You must:

- Keep it separate from your other waste;
- Arrange for collection by a specialist contractor as hazardous waste.