



SKI TEAM4 COVID 19 STATEMENT

General

Ski Team4 fully understands that teachers will be receiving many queries from parents regarding the safety of trips that have been booked for the 2021/22 winter season that there may also still be certain queries in relation to trips being booked for the 2022/2023 winter ski season regarding covid-19. We have therefore spent considerable time gathering information and speaking with all of our suppliers over and over again to ensure that each and every supplier has a comprehensive covid-19 plan in force. We have provided links below for ferry/Eurotunnel and airline operators. We have also had detailed discussions with coach companies and cross channel operators in order to fully understand how their protection precautions actually work in practice. In most cases, we have been able to actually visit hotels to see precautions for ourselves and have travelled on the ferries too. We must, however, make clear that due to the whole issue being fluid, precautions can change with immediate effect, as can government regulations.

We will also send you all links available relating to your travel service providers on your Travelling Instructions prior to travel.

Some countries require health forms to be filled out prior to departure. If this is the case with the country you are travelling to, we will inform you of this in good time prior to departure.

Coaches

The coach industry, both in the UK and on the European continent has been working very hard to make their coaches as covid-19 safe as possible. All of the coaches we are working with are following these covid-19 guidelines:

1. Hand sanitiser dispensers at the entrance of all coaches.
2. Air purifiers with 3 filter technology: photo catalyst, plasma and UV lamp. The main function of these filters is to kill viruses and to decrease PM2.5.
3. Air recirculation is turned off.
4. Coaches are completely disinfected on a weekly basis and “fogged” daily after use.
5. It is highly advisable whilst on service station stops on-route to and from resort, that small groups of students leave the coach to visit WC’s in a staggered organised manner supervised by teachers.

Ferries/Eurotunnel

1. Early and staggered boarding and disembarkation (the latter being extremely important to avoid a “rush” to get to cars/coaches) to reduce congestion. Reduced capacity on board to better enable social distancing.
2. Hand sanitizers that are regularly refilled all over the ships. Hand washing facilities in good working order.
3. Enhanced cleaning on board with particular focus on areas that are frequently touched such as switches, table tops, railings and similar.
4. Only wrapped food items available for purchase onboard.
5. Ship’s air circulation system will be on 100% fresh air where possible.
6. Social distancing markings on floors, in particular in self service restaurant areas and for disembarkation.
7. Plexiglas in place at tills and information desks.
8. On Eurotunnel, all passengers should stay on the coach so that no-one comes in contact with other passengers and do not necessarily break the travel bubble.

Flying

Airports have imposed guidelines which are very similar in both the UK and in continental Europe. This includes, of course, wearing facemasks at all times in the airport, social distancing floor markings in all relevant areas such as in security, boarding the aircraft and going through passport control upon arrival in the destination airport and back in the UK. Toilet facilities have been adapted to ensure distancing and hand gel is available in multiple areas.

Airlines generally ensure that social distancing is adhered to whilst boarding the plane and also whilst disembarking. Facemasks must be worn during the whole duration of the flight.

All modern aircraft are fitted with HEPA filters, the same as those used in hospitals, replacing cabin air every three to four minutes. The cabin is thoroughly disinfected daily, which provides surface protection from viruses that last for at least 24 hours.

You may find that the use of toilets is restricted to avoid large numbers of passengers standing in the aisles. This helps to avoid close contact between people standing and waiting to use the toilets and people sitting in their seats.

Hotels

1. At Facemasks are worn by employees whenever in contact with guests and whilst cleaning and handling food. Facemasks must be worn by guests in all public areas in the hotel and whilst going to and from the dining room.
2. Special cleaning protocols in bedrooms and all public areas including disinfection will be strictly adhered to as imposed by the respective governments.
3. In larger hotels that accommodate more than one group, groups will be split in to their own areas if possible and meals may be staggered to ensure that there is as little contact as possible with other groups.
4. Hand gel will be provided in multiple areas of the building.
5. All of the hotels we work with will have received a special covid-19 audit as suggested by the STF to ensure that they are adhering to covid-19 plans.

Ski Lifts/On the slopes

Overall, it must be pointed out that skiing is an outdoor sport that is proven to be very beneficial for your health. You are outdoors in the fresh mountain air, you are stocking up on vitamin D and you are keeping active.

Although there are so far no government imposed restrictions, lift companies have been self-imposing their own protection arrangements. Almost all of the lift companies we work with were open in summer 2020 and in Austria, all ski areas were open for most of the 2021 winter ski season. These ski areas successfully operated using their own safety guidelines, which have been agreed by the associations of ski lift operators. It should be remembered that skiing is an outdoor sport and there is no or little need to be in close proximity to other skiers whilst on the slopes. The protection guidelines that ski areas are adhering to are as follows:

1. Facemasks should be worn on the way to the slopes either by ski bus or using your own ski coach. They must also be worn on lifts.
2. Extra attention will be paid to ensure that gondolas are always aired properly during your ascent. Virtually all gondolas have windows and windows will be open.
3. Hand sanitizer will be available in all toilet facilities.
4. Guests will be informed regarding corona virus precautions with posters in various parts of the ski areas and via announcements on the P.A. systems.
5. All lifts will be regularly disinfected.
6. All lift company employees will have had detailed training in relation to corona virus safety measures.

7. Each lift company will have one person who has been fully trained, have full responsibility and ensure that all safety measures are fully implemented.

Ski Schools

Masks will be worn by all ski school employees in the ski school office.

Clients will need to wear masks in the ski school office.

Hand sanitizers will be available in the office.

Ski rental

All equipment will be thoroughly disinfected prior to being issued to clients.

Both customers and ski fitting staff need to wear masks during the ski fit.

Social distancing must be adhered to during the ski fit and arrivals will be staggered to ensure that more than one group is not in the same room at any one time. This will, of course mean that ski fits may take longer than you have been used to in the past.

Evening entertainment

We strongly advise against organizing any “out of hotel” entertainments during the 2021/2022 ski season. Virtually all locations are used by large numbers of other clients and the risk of getting close to other people is unnecessarily high. This relates particularly to pizza evenings, bowling and swimming pools. We will of course be more than happy to arrange for “in house” entertainments wherever possible.

Hot lunches on the slopes

Unless hot lunches are provided in one of our doorstep hotels, where we have detailed information about the spaces that lunches will be eaten in, and know that our hoteliers will also ensure that our groups come in to contact with as few other clients as possible, we advise against booking hot lunches on the mountain anywhere.

There is clearly less risk if groups are able to eat packed lunches in their own “bubble” on the coach for example. This is something that our coach companies will be facilitating.

Hand sanitiser

Although hand sanitizer is provided in multiple locations, we advise that every student and adult always carries their own sanitizer with them at all times.

Links

P&O: <http://www.poferries.com/en/customer-charter>

DFDS: <https://www.dfds.com/en/passenger-ferries/corona-virus/updates>

Ski Area examples:

Amade: https://www.skiamade.com/corona_en

Ischgl: <https://www.ischgl.com/en/Active/Active-Winter/Winter-2020-21-COVID-19>

Kitzbühel: <https://www.kitzski.at/en/protect-yourself-and-others.html>

These are just a few links to some ski areas, so that you can get a general idea of the precautions being taken. If you would like information about a particular area, please let us know and we will be happy to provide you with this.

ABTA: <https://www.abta.com/news/coronavirus-outbreak>