

SKI TEAM₄ COVID-19 STATEMENT

Your Safety Is Our Priority

GENERAL

ST4 fully understands the fact that teachers will be receiving many queries from parents regarding the safety of trips that have been booked for the 2020/21 winter season with regard to Covid-19. We have therefore spent considerable time gathering information and speaking with all of our suppliers to ensure that each and every supplier has a comprehensive Covid-19 plan in force to help answer any questions that you, or parents may have. 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. 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.

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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: photocatalyst, 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.

FERRIES

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.

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 marking 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 lasts 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. Facemasks will be worn by employees whenever in contact with guests and whilst handling food and whilst cleaning. Facemasks must be worn by guests in all public areas in the hotel and whilst moving to and from meals.
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 receive a special covid 19 audit as suggested by the STF during the autumn to ensure that they are as safe as possible.

SKI LIFTS/ON THE SLOPES

Overall, it must be pointed out that skiing is an outdoor sport and it has been proved that it is very beneficial for your health. You are outdoors in the fresh mountain air, you are stocking up on vitamin D and you are moving a lot.

Although there are so far no governmental guidelines, lift companies have been self-imposing their own protection arrangements. Almost all of the lift companies we work with have been open over the summer months and have successfully operated their resorts using their own safety guidelines, which have been agreed by the associations of ski lift operators in the various countries we work in. Also, major summer ski areas, such as the Stubai, Kitsteinhorn, Hintertux and Mölltal glaciers have been open for skiing and imposed ski related protection guidelines. Overall, 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.

The protection guidelines that ski areas are adhering to are as follows:

1. Facemasks should be worn on the way to the slopes (ski bus) and whilst in the base station area. They must also be worn on lifts. We are waiting for information on whether they should be worn whilst in ski lessons or not, but according to information at present, people skiing on their own do not have to wear facemasks.
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. Disinfect hand gel 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

We are presently waiting to hear from ski schools, who are in turn waiting to hear from the relevant governments departments as to any Covid-19 relevant safety measures that may be implemented.

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.

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 2020/2021 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 LUNCHESES ON THE SLOPES

Unless hot lunches are eaten in one of our doorstep hotels, where we have detailed information about the areas 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.