

COVID 19 – Preparing to Return to Normal Flying Operations for General Aviation Private Pilots

CAP 1925

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Edition 1: 20 May 2020

Edition 2: 27 May 2020 Amended text on page 4 has been underlined in red.

IMPORTANT NOTE

This CAA guidance document is intended to complement guidelines issued by HM Government, the Department for Transport and Public Health bodies.

You must only operate within the guidance around recreational flying activities as advised by Government.

Whilst every effort is made to ensure that all advice is pertinent at time of publication, the CAA reserves the right to amend or withdraw this document to accommodate changes to HM Government policy, to correct errors and omissions or to reflect changes in national policy and best practice.

This document is used to supplement information published in [CAP1919](#).

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this guidance is to help General Aviation (GA) private pilots return safely to normal operations following the easing of Government Covid 19 related restrictions on recreational flying, which has resulted in an extended period of 'minimal or no GA flying'.

ALL GENERAL AVIATION PILOTS

We appreciate that GA pilots will want to return to the air safely as soon as possible. In view of the extended period on the ground, the CAA recommends a few sensible precautions and things to consider before doing so. However, you must only operate within the guidance around recreational flying activities as advised by Government.

As the UK's independent aviation safety regulator, we understand pilots will be keen to get back in the air again. It is vital to remember that all pilots will experience some amount of "Skills fade / degradation" irrespective of your level of flying experience. When government restrictions allow shared flights with other than members of the same household, we would encourage the use of appropriate refresher training or club check flights before flying. Pilots that have not flown regularly since the last flying season or are 'low hours' may consider waiting until social distancing restrictions are lifted so they can conduct refresher training or a club check flight before resuming recreational flying activities. Pilots who own and operate their own aircraft outside of a training environment are encouraged to visit their local Flying Club or School for this.

GENERAL HEALTH, WELLBEING & PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

Do you remain fit and well? Remember, the cockpit of a GA aircraft is a very close environment, the club house may not be a large area. Are you (and any permitted passengers) clear of any symptoms of Covid 19 or any other decrease in medical fitness that may adversely affect flight safety?. If you choose to wear any PPE you must ensure that they do not create a flight safety hazard or inhibit safe operation of the aircraft in any way.

Be mindful of any health guidance issued by Public Health Authorities concerning disinfecting and cleansing areas, washing hands, sharing of equipment etc. Do you know where facilities are available to ensure this happens? If these facilities are not available, for example at 'farm strips', do you need to bring them with you?

Consider whether it is necessary to take steps to disinfect surfaces inside the cockpit between flights, especially in operating environments with different pilots at the flying controls, eg flying schools.