



BCA COVID-19 GUIDANCE FOR SRT TRAINING IN ENGLAND

Please note that this guidance does not apply to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and does not take into account any local lockdown restrictions that may apply.

1. Find the venue operator's statement on capacity and procedures for Covid-19. Negotiation may be needed to allow the training event to proceed.
2. Determine the number of rope hang points and whether every attendee can have their own rope or whether sharing will have to take place. This can be done by determining the floor area and evaluate the number of attendees and instructors who can be accommodated. If reasonable, adjust number of potential attendees to achieve the 2m rule. You may need to apply the infection control measures noted in Annex.
3. Issue invitations to attend with clear statement including:
 - The need for a face covering (which will be required for certain activities)
 - A warning not to attend if displaying any symptoms, or are in quarantine or self-isolation
 - A request for details of any medical condition requiring exemption from wearing a face covering
 - A reminder to all of the need to arrive and disperse in groups complying with 'the rule of 6'
 - The need to provide name, mobile phone number and address
 - The name and details of contact point in case someone subsequently becomes ill
 - That spectators are not allowed
 - No food or drink within the room, if inside
4. Try to ensure sufficient hand sanitiser and some spare face coverings are available. Plan on how to deal with persons who are unable to wear face coverings. If needed, work out break times to allow attendees to go outside to have a break from wearing a face covering.
5. Try to ensure ropes and SRT kits have been isolated for over 72 hours before and after the event. If possible, bring your own SRT kit.
6. At start of the event confirm hold names, mobile phone number and addresses of all attendees and instructors. Brief everyone on the infection control measures for event (face coverings and use of hand sanitiser etc). Remind people to cough or sneeze into a handkerchief and if need be, use a hand sanitiser before and after touching their face.
7. Keep records for 21 days and in compliance with GDPR requirements (i.e. don't share unless asked by an authorised person) and then destroy them.

Annex Risk Assessment

This risk assessment only focuses on the Covid-19 related hazards. Note the 2m rule applies both horizontally and vertically.

Although many cavers use gloves underground, they do not change the risk of transferring the virus by hand from a contaminated surface to the mouth. Therefore the following control measures are still necessary:

Specific transmission route	Best Approach	Control measures if necessary
Attendees		
On the ground	If possible, keep to 2 metre rule.	If need to congregate in closer groups, then wear face coverings if indoors and under 2m separation or if outdoors and under 1m separation.
Sharing SRT kit	Avoid if possible.	If necessary, then kit wearer must use hand sanitiser before putting kit on, and before and after taking it off.
	Instructor advises attendee on adjusting SRT kit on attendee.	If need for Instructor to physically adjust SRT kit, the attendee to wear face covering for period whilst being checked.
Sharing SRT ropes	Avoid if reasonable.	If necessary, then use hand sanitiser before and after each use of the rope.
Social distancing on rope	If possible, hang ropes more than 2m apart.	If need to hang ropes more closely, then control usage of rope to achieve 2m rule. If not reasonable then wear face coverings when on rope if indoors and under 2m separation or if outdoors and under 1m separation.
	Ropes which are placed close together to use for transfer exercises and similar.	Control usage to achieve 2m rule. If not reasonable then wear face coverings if indoors and under 2m separation or if outdoors and under 1m separation.
	Two person exercises (c.f. rescue or passing a person on the rope).	If possible use a suitably weighted dummy for exercise. Else wear face coverings as separation will be under 1m for some of the time.
Instructors (in addition to above)		
SRT kit	Instructor to advise attendee on fitting of SRT kit by discussion if at all possible.	Instructor to wear face covering if adjusting the SRT kit on an attendee and use hand sanitiser before and after checking.
SRT Rope	Instructor should use hand sanitiser before and after holding bottom of rope to provide control.	
Emergency	If Instructor cannot help attendee by spoken commands, then attend <u>without</u> face covering so as to maximise support. Also use hand sanitiser before and after providing help.	