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Latest version of COVID-19 Riding Guidelines gains National Police Chiefs Council stamp of approval.

The Coalition of Motorcycling Organisations has issued a revised version of its COVID-19 Riding Guidelines. This third iteration of the guidance based on the latest changes to Government guidelines includes advice on group riding and first responder incident management. The coalition are delighted that the guidance has now received an official seal of approval from Nick Adderley, the National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) lead for motorcycling.

The coalition has worked hard to distil Government coronavirus guidelines into a single guide relevant to motorcyclists. The guidelines have been updated to encompass recent changes in the constantly evolving advice designed to keep individuals and the wider community safe in these challenging times.

The new guidelines remind riders to plan carefully and to check Government websites including for Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland and any local lockdowns. They remind everyone not to ride if they are suffering symptoms of COVID-19 or have been in contact in the last 14 days with someone who has had symptoms or tested positive. Other points of emphasis include: checking out COVID-19 security arrangements at indoor venues (but ideally not to meet indoors); keeping riding groups to no more than six; and observing distancing, hand hygiene and mask requirements at all times.

Commenting on the guidelines and the work of the Coalition members, Nick Adderley said:

“I have been asked to review this guidance on behalf of the Coalition of Motorcycle Organisations in my capacity as NPCC lead for police motorcycling and motorcycle related crime. Policing the pandemic has been challenging and often confusing time for all including motorcyclists. We are keen to ensure the public can enjoy social activities and meet up within the parameters of the guidance set by Government.

I am reassured by the work that has gone into the production of these motorcycle specific guidelines. I would particularly like to commend the lead authors, Roger Bibbings of the VMCC and Richard Gladman of IAM RoadSmart for their tireless work on this project. I would encourage all riders, whether they are riding alone or in groups, to consult the guidance and to follow the rules at rest stops and whilst visiting public places. Please act and ride responsibly.”

The revised guidelines can be found online at <https://bit.ly/COVIDRideV3> . The member groups of the Coalition of Motorcycling Organisations encourage their members and all other riders to read the guidelines and apply the advice to their own efforts to fight the spread of the virus.

Issued on behalf of the Coalition of Motorcycling Organisations by the Motorcycle Action Group

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ENDS

Notes for editors

The Coalition of Motorcycling Organisations membership consists of representatives from the Motorcycle Action Group (MAG), the Vintage Motorcycle Club (VMCC), the Trail Riders Fellowship (TRF), the British Motorcyclists Federation (BMF), IAM RoadSmart, the Auto Cycle Union (ACU), the Triumph Owners' Motorcycle Club (TOMCC) and Biker Down UK.

The original White Paper "Riding COVID safe: a discussion paper" submitted to the Secretary of State on 14th May can be accessed here: <https://bit.ly/2LqZSrt>

The latest version of the Coalition's Guidance for motorcyclists can be found at:
<https://bit.ly/COVIDRideV3>

The IMA demands inclusion of motorcycles in Irish transport policy

FEMA: July 30, 2020



FEMA member The Irish Motorcyclist's Association (IMA) is calling on the Government to take three simple actions to help motorcyclists play a fair role in the post-lockdown transport restart. They have started a letter writing campaign:
<https://www.magireland.org/07>

The "Three Demands" letter writing campaign is to gain traction in relation to two wheelers as an recognised viable transportation alternative to the new normal on Irish roads. Two-wheelers are not formally recognised as a viable means of transportation by the state and local authorities. In any transportation plans motor bikes and scooters are never included while the benefits are self-explanatory.

The Irish Motorcyclist's Association is calling on the Government to take three simple actions to help motorcyclists play a fair role in the post-lockdown transport restart.

Three demands

The three demands are:

1. Specifically recognise and encourage the role of motorcycles and scooters as a socially distanced, congestion busting, and sustainable transport mode for post-COVID travel in all Government transport messaging.
2. Mandate all local authorities to immediately allow motorcycle and scooter access in all combined bus and cycle routes.
3. Mandate all local authorities to immediately provide emergency secure two-wheeler parking facilities that can be used by both motorcyclists and cyclists.

To convince the authorities they ask Irish motorcyclists to write to their local TeachtaDála (member of the Irish Parliament) requesting support for the demands. With this campaign, The Irish Motorcyclist's Association wants to start reshaping the Government's thinking about motorcycles.



Text and photo: The Irish Motorcyclists' Association.

We can all help to reduce motorcycle casualties on our post-lockdown roads

Posted on July 29th, 2020 by GEM Motoring Assist



GEM Motoring Assist is keen to reduce motorcycle casualties during the current summer riding season. Several weeks of lockdown have meant a slow start for many riders, and GEM is urging every motorcyclist to stay legal, stay safe and focus on boosting skills.

Knowing your own limits is a vital component of being a safe, responsible rider, says GEM.

GEM chief executive Neil Worth said: “There’s a lot of satisfaction to be gained from riding a motorcycle with skill and precision. But if you’re riding at speed, there is no margin for error if you – or another road user near you – gets something wrong.

“We’re encouraging riders to give themselves a ‘skills MOT’ – particularly in view of the delays and restrictions endured by so many riders in the months when they might otherwise expect to be out on their machines. We also appeal to drivers and pedestrians to make a special point of looking out for motorcyclists, especially at junctions. After all, it’s here around 30 riders are killed or injured every day.

Follow GEM’s five simple ‘lifesaver’ safety tips and reduce the risk of being involved in a collision:

- If you’ve had your bike in the garage for a long time, invest in a refresher day with a training professional. Search online for motorcycle training days or consult your local club or advanced motorcyclists’ group.
- Make sure you take time to warm up, especially if you are not a regular rider and not ‘bike fit’.
- Ensure self-preservation is your priority. The predominant cause of motorcycle crashes is the failure of car drivers to detect and recognise motorcycles in traffic. So wear high visibility clothing on all journeys, and ride in a way that gives others a better chance of seeing you.
- Don’t ride beyond your comfort zone, especially if you’re riding in a group. If your friends are cornering too quickly for you, let them go and join them at the next junction.
- Try not to dwell on your errors as you go along. Plan 10 to 15 seconds ahead, anticipate the next hazards. When you stop for a break, reflect on anything that didn’t go to plan, ask what you have learnt and how you can reduce the chance of the same thing happening again.

Finally, GEM is asking all other road users to keep a good look-out for motorcyclists.

“The roads are there for us all to use, so do get into the habit of expecting to see motorcycles on a journey,” added Neil Worth. “It may seem an easy and obvious step, but it has significant potential in terms of helping to reduce motorcyclist injuries.

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