

Return to running plan – Covid edition

| | Day one | Day two | Day three | Day four | Day five | Day six | Day seven |
|----------------|---|---------|---|---|--|---|--|
| Stage | Walking (15 mins) | REST | REST | Walking | REST | Walking | REST |
| one | | | | (15 mins) | | (15 mins) | |
| Stage two | Walking (20 mins) | REST | REST | Walk/run: • Warm-up: 5 mins walk • 2 mins easy run; 3 mins walk (two times) • Cool down: 5 mins walk (20 mins total) | REST | Walking or Stationary bike (20mins) | REST |
| Stage three | Walk/run: Warm-up: 5 mins walk 2 mins easy run; 3 mins walk (two times) Cool down: 5 mins walk (20 mins total) | REST | Walking (20 mins) | REST | Walk/run: • Warm-up: 5 mins walk • 3 mins easy run; 2 mins walk (two times) • Cool down: 5 mins walk (20 mins total) | REST | Walking/ Stationary bike (15 – 20 mins) |
| Stage four | Walk/run: Warm-up: 5 mins walk 3 mins easy run; 2 mins walk (two times) Cool down: 5 mins walk (20 mins total) | REST | Walk/run: Warm-up: 5 mins walk 4 mins easy run; 1 min walk (two times) Cool down: 5 mins walk (20 mins total) | REST | Walk/run Warm-up: 5 mins walk 4 mins easy run; 1 min walk (three times) Cool down: 5 mins walk (25 mins total) | REST | Walking/ Stationary bike (30 mins) Bodyweight circuit: 10 squats 10 reverse lunges (on each leg) 30 sec plank 10 press-ups/push-ups Do one set, rest for 1 minute and repeat |

| Stage five | Running • Warm-up: 5 mins walk • 15 mins continuous running • Cool down: 5 mins walk (25 mins total) | REST | Walk/run • Warm-up: 5 mins walk • 4 mins easy run; 1 min walk (six times) • Cool down: 5 mins walk (40 mins total) | REST | Running • Warm-up: 5 mins walk • 15 mins continuous running • Cool down: 5 mins walk (25 mins total) | REST | Walking/ Stationary bike (30 mins) Bodyweight circuit: 10 squats 10 reverse lunges (on each leg) 30 sec plank 10 press-ups/push-ups Do one set, rest for 1 minute and repeat twice |
|---------------|--|------|---|------|--|------|--|
| Stage six | Run 30 mins | REST | Run 30 mins | | Run 30 mins Bodyweight circuit: 10 squats 10 reverse lunges (on each leg) 30 sec plank 10 press-ups/push- ups Do one set, rest for 1 minute and repeat twice (three sets in total) | REST | (three sets in total) Cross training (bike/swimming/walking) 40 mins Bodyweight circuit: 10 squats 10 reverse lunges (on each leg) 30 sec plank 10 press-ups/push-ups Do one set, rest for 1 minute and repeat twice (three sets in total) |



Before you start this plan read this...

Before you start:

- This plan should not replace any medical advice you have been given about returning to running after Covid.
- Before you start this plan, you should be symptom-free and off any medication (including over-the-counter medicines such as paracetamol).
- You should also be able to walk for 10 mins without feeling breathless and able to complete your usual day-to-day activities.
- If you had any complications (particularly relating to your heart or lung function) or had a hospital stay as a result of Covid, get medical advice before re-starting exercise.

About the plan:

- Everyone I have spoken to who has had Covid has had different experiences when it comes to returning to exercise. This is a guide not a rigid plan do what works for you.
- The plan is in stages and not weeks ensure you can complete a stage comfortably before moving on. If you can't, go back to the previous stage and re-do that before moving to the next stage.
- Go at your own pace and take it slowly. If you have a sports watch with a heart rate monitor use this to measure your progress. For the first three weeks keep your heart rate below 70% of maximum.
- Alternatively, stay below 7 RPE (Rate Perceived Exertion Scale). Remember, what would have been 'easy' (or RPE 3 or 4) before Covid may seem a lot a harder (RPE 7 or 8) as your body recovers. Be kind to yourself.
- The aim of the plan is to steadily increase the frequency, then duration and then intensity not all three at once.
- Rest days are just that. Rest.

Any questions:

Email: coach@trainrunrepeat.co.uk and we will aim to respond to you within 24 hours.

And finally...

You are welcome to share this plan – it is free. However, it cannot to be used commercially.