



# COVID-19 GUIDANCE FOR SPORTS AND SPORTING EVENTS

These guidelines will assist individuals, teams and sporting event spectators in continuing to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

- City of Springfield order: [www.springfieldmo.gov/coronavirusresponse](http://www.springfieldmo.gov/coronavirusresponse)
- Greene County order: [www.greenecountymo.gov](http://www.greenecountymo.gov)

## General Requirements

- Non-contact sporting events and activities may reopen with restrictions to the occupancy of the designated fixed seating spectator area, based on the applicable order.
- Non-contact practices of contact sports may occur with restrictions to the number of individuals, based on the applicable order. Individuals must be coordinated in stable, separated groups.
  - “Stable” means that the same or fewer teammates/coaches/staff are in the same group each day and at each practice.
  - Group size or members should not change from one group to another and the coach or team staff should remain with the same group each day.
  - Non-Contact Practice examples:
    - One on One coaching
    - Running drills
    - Rebounding drills

## Sports Guidance

- Consider shortening game times and modifying game play to minimize contact.
- Consider adjusting playing formats and increasing the amount of time between games, to minimize overlap and traffic flow where needed.
- Teams should leave the field immediately after games conclude.
- Practice physical distancing of 6 feet in all areas
  - Utilize signage/barriers and floor/seat markers to instruct spectators to remain 6 feet apart.
  - Cloth face coverings for staff/coaches and spectators should be worn when physical distancing cannot be maintained.
  - Cloth face coverings for players should be worn when not in active play.
- Post signage outside the entrances that states that any team member, coach/staff or spectator who has symptoms of COVID-19 should not enter.
- Minimize player contact by eliminating actions such as: handshakes, high fives, and team huddles.
- Make hand sanitizer (70% alcohol) and disinfectant wipes available upon entering the facility and throughout the facility or open area.
- Athletes, coaches/staff, and spectators should bring their own water or other drinks.
- Regularly clean and disinfect registers, keypads and client cards.
- If food is offered at any event, have pre-packaged boxes, bags, condiments and utensils for each attendee whenever possible.

## Health Guidance

- Screen athletes and staff for symptoms upon arrival to practice/activity.
  - Encourage all to pre-screen prior to reporting to the practice/activity.
  - Design a protocol for reporting self-monitoring before beginning practice or start of the event.

- Use no contact thermometers to check temperatures before practice.
- Screen spectators when feasible
- Require Athletes and staff to stay home if they are sick or be sent home if they report to work with a fever.
- Give any person who is sick a facemask and separate them from others until they can safely leave.
  - If needed, arrange transportation for people who need medical care.
- Establish a way to account for and record all employees and Athletes at each practice or activity. (e.g. sign-in sheet)
  - Record attendance for each stable group specifically
  - Encourage sign-in sheet for spectators
- Individuals at high-risk should continue to remain at home and not interact with others except for vital activities.
- Encourage respiratory etiquette, including covering coughs and sneezes.
- Athletes and staff who are well but who have a sick family member at home with COVID-19 should notify their supervisor and follow [CDC recommended precautions](#).

## Cleaning and Disinfecting Guidance

- Clean and disinfect each piece of equipment after every use.
- Consider closing for certain periods during the day for complete cleaning and disinfecting.
- Provide disinfecting wipes for individuals to wipe down sporting equipment surfaces that are in direct contact with skin (or body) after each use. Surfaces include but are not limited to:
  - Balls, rope handles, bats and other sport accessories.
  - Benches and seats

- When disposable wipes or other disinfecting products are not available, most common household disinfectants such as a 10% bleach solution, alcohol solutions with at least 70% alcohol and most common EPA-registered products that states it kills viruses. Follow the manufacturer's instructions on bottle.
  - Chlorine is corrosive to metal and at higher concentrations can present a skin hazard. Solutions greater than 200 ppm will require a clear water rinse.
- Chlorine solutions should be prepared fresh each day.
  - Bleach solutions and other disinfectants should be applied using a spray bottle and disposable paper towels.
  - Treated surfaces must be allowed to air dry before next use.
- Leave adequate time between each practice or event to allow for thorough cleaning and disinfection of all surfaces, equipment and spaces.
- For concession stand guidance, please refer to Restaurant Guidance.

## Physical Distancing Guidance

- Spectator areas should be marked off to ensure 6 feet separation between individuals.
  - Consider marking off 6 feet for each seat with tape.
  - Block off every other row in bleachers to allow for social distancing.
  - Encourage spectators to bring own seats/chairs.
- Space machines or other sport equipment for practice at least six feet apart.
  - Use every other piece of non-mobile equipment to accommodate six feet spacing.
  - Where necessary, additional barriers may be installed to avoid contact between Athletes.
- Mark six feet spacing for spectators to wait in line.
- Designate one-way traffic, where possible.

- Stagger shifts and schedules for practices.
- Take breaks and meals/snacks outside or where proper physical distancing is attainable.
- Close common areas (e.g. breakrooms, meeting rooms, etc.) where Athletes and spectators are likely to congregate and interact.
- If bathrooms or locker rooms are in use, limit numbers of employees, staff, and Athletes using facilities at one time and to ensure handwashing.

## **When a confirmed COVID-19 case has been on a team or in the facility**

- Notify and coordinate with local health officials to determine course of action, which may include contact tracing, short-term facility closure, activity cancellations or restricting access.
- Communicate with staff, teams and spectators. Coordinate with local health officials to communicate closure decisions, alterations to services, and the possible COVID-19 exposure.
- Maintain confidentiality of the person who is a confirmed COVID-19 case.
- Sick team or staff member(s) may require short-term suspension of the team's practices and participation in games.
- Close off areas used by the sick person and do not use the area until after cleaning and disinfection.
  - Wait 24 hours to clean and disinfect to reduce risk to the individuals cleaning.
  - Perform enhanced cleaning and disinfection after persons suspected/confirmed to have COVID-19 have been in the facility by following the CDC cleaning and disinfection recommendations.
- Advise sick staff and Athletes not to return to the facility until they have met CDC's criteria to discontinue home isolation.

## For additional information:

- World Health Organization (WHO) Considerations for sports federations/sports event organizers: [https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/331764/WHO-2019-nCoV-Mass\\_Gatherings\\_Sports-2020.1-eng.pdf](https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/331764/WHO-2019-nCoV-Mass_Gatherings_Sports-2020.1-eng.pdf)
- USOPC Return to Training Considerations: <https://www.teamusa.org/-/media/583E88D9C2514F52816F8FC12F6FCA82.ashx>
- USSSA Return-to-Play Guidelines: <https://usssa.com/docs/2020/Covid19-ReturnToPlay.pdf>