

Responsible RestartOhio

Youth, Collegiate, Amateur, Club and Professional Sports



In addition to this state guidance, schools, universities, amateur, and professional sports organizations also must also follow any additional health guidance rules for the prevention of COVID-19 from their governing bodies that is more restrictive than this minimum health guidance. Independent youth sports organizations also must follow sport-specific guidance from the Ohio High School Athletic Association. The primary purpose of permitting spectators is to allow and encourage the family members and loved ones of players, coaches, team staff members, officials, and other event participants (band, honor guard, etc.) to observe and share in the experience.

Players, Coaches, Athletic Trainers, and Officials

Mandatory

- Players, coaches, officials athletic trainers, and officials must conduct daily symptom assessments before each practice or game.
- Anyone experiencing symptoms must stay home.*
- Coaches must (1) Participate in COVID-19 education developed for them by the Ohio Department of Health, and (2) Educate their players on how to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 using resources provided by the Ohio Department of Health. This training can be found at: <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/responsible-restart-ohio/sector-specific-operating-requirements/sector-specific-operating-requirements>
- Promote good hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette. Flyers and signs are available at [coronavirus.ohio.gov \(https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/responsible-restart-ohio/Posters-and-Signs/\)](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/responsible-restart-ohio/Posters-and-Signs/).
- No congregating before or after practices or games by players, coaches, athletic trainers or officials is permitted.
 - Coaches, volunteers, athletic trainers, and officials must wear face coverings at all times, and players must wear face coverings when not on the field or court of play, except for one of the reasons stated in the Director's Order for Facial Coverings throughout the State of Ohio signed July 23, 2020 (<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/publicorders/Directors-Order-Facial-Coverings-throughout-State-Ohio.pdf>) or as it may thereafter be amended. Coaches and officials are not required to wear facial coverings when on the field of play during games and practices to allow the use of whistles.

(Written justification must be provided to local health officials, upon request, explaining why an athletic trainer is not required to wear a facial covering when attending to an injured player. At minimum, facial coverings (masks) should be cloth/fabric and cover an individual's nose, mouth, and chin.)

- Players, volunteers, coaches, athletic trainers, and officials must strictly follow Ohio's face coverings Order when out in public in order to reduce the risk of contracting COVID-19 and potentially spreading it during sports activities.
- Coaches must have a parent/volunteer help monitor/ensure social distancing on teams of young children.
- Coaches shall identify players at higher risk of developing serious complications from COVID-19, such as those with asthma, diabetes or other health problems, and take extra precautions to protect them.

Recommended Best Practices

- Players should consider wearing face coverings while at home to protect family members who may be at higher risk.

Mandatory

Spectators

- Spectators must conduct daily symptom assessments.
- Anyone experiencing symptoms must stay home.*
- Family members must sit together, socially distanced from other individuals/family groups.
- Six-foot social distancing must be maintained between individuals/family groups
- No congregating before or after practices or games is permitted.
- Spectators must wear face coverings at all times except for any of the allowable exceptions stated in the Director's Order for Facial Coverings throughout the State of Ohio. (<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/publicorders/Directors-Order-Facial-Coverings-throughout-State-Ohio.pdf>)

Practices/ Games/ Tournaments

- **Six-foot social distance must be maintained between individuals except when necessary on the field or court of play.**
- Players, coaches, and officials are not to physically contact each other before or after practice, pregame and competitive play (i.e. greetings, team huddles, high-fives, congregating, etc.).
- Limit time spent on activities where players are in close proximity for extended periods of time (e.g., repeatedly practicing corner or penalty kicks in soccer; rebounding drills in basketball).
- Facilities, teams, and clubs must ensure that facilities have adequate space for social distancing for players, coaches, athletic trainers, officials, parents/guardians, and spectators off the field or court of play.
- No congregating before or after practices or games is permitted.
- Prior to competitive tournaments, tournament organizers must notify the local health department.
- Contact the local health department weekly regarding the status of COVID-19 in the community.
- Football, soccer, field hockey, hockey, wrestling, lacrosse, basketball, and volleyball are limited to one team vs. team game/match a day, but multiple games/matches may be played between the same teams in one day.

Equipment

- Equipment and personal items must have proper separation and must not be shared. If equipment must be shared, proper sanitation must be performed between users.
- Do not share towels or facial coverings.
- Do not share water bottles or other drinks.
- Do not share food.

Facilities/ Venues

- Outdoor spectators are limited to the lesser of 15% of fixed seating capacity of the venue or 1,500 total.
- Indoor spectators are limited to the lesser of 15% of fixed seating capacity or 300 total.
- Time must be allotted between practice sessions to allow teams to exit fields/facilities prior to new teams arriving and for proper sanitizing for shared spaces and high-touch surfaces (benches, equipment, etc.).
- Organizers of sports tournaments must follow applicable guidance for venues (including grandstands) in which the tournament is held.
- Promote good hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette. Flyers and signs are available at [coronavirus.ohio.gov \(https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/responsible-restart-ohio/Posters-and-Signs/\)](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/responsible-restart-ohio/Posters-and-Signs/).
- Make hand sanitizer available at convenient locations.

Recommended Best Practices

- School and organization officials should distribute tickets with an emphasis on allowing family and loved ones to see students participate.

- During practices, consider putting players into small groups that remain together through practice stations rather than mixing groups for station to station.

- Competing players/teams should not use the same equipment.
- Make sure there are adequate supplies of items and equipment to the extent possible to minimize the need for sharing (e.g. bats, protective gear, etc.).

- Close shared spaces such as locker rooms, if possible. Otherwise, stagger use and clean and disinfect between use.
- Limit the number of players sitting in confined player seating areas (e.g., dugouts) by allowing players to spread out into spectator areas if more space is available.

Mandatory

Facilities/ Venues (cont.)

- Locker rooms, restrooms, weight training rooms, and athletic training rooms must be cleaned and sanitized frequently. Individuals must maintain social distancing as much as possible while in these rooms. Face coverings must be worn at all times while in these rooms.
- If playing inside, ensure ventilation systems or fans operate properly. Increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible, such as opening windows and doors unless doing so poses a safety or health risk.
- Venues must follow all other requirements included in the Director's Order that Provides Guidance for Youth, Collegiate, Amateur, and Professional Sports and the Responsible RestartOhio Guidelines for Outdoor and Indoor Entertainment Venues.
- Food concessions operations must adhere to Ohio's guidance for Restaurants, Bars, Banquet & Catering Facilities/Services available at coronavirus.ohio.gov.

Recommended Best Practices

Team Travel by Bus, Etc.

- Individuals traveling together by bus, etc., must wear a face covering and social distance where possible while in the vehicle.
- Conduct a pre-travel symptom and temperature check immediately prior to departure.

- Consider traveling to and from games with parents, guardians, or members of household if possible.

Travel

- For out-of-state travel, follow the COVID-19 guidance of the state and local public health jurisdiction to which the team is traveling.

- Limit use of carpools. Encourage players to only ride with others in their household if possible.
- Traveling outside the local community may increase the chances of exposing players, coaches, and fans to COVID-19, or unknowingly spreading it to others. Consider competing only against teams in your local area.

Suspected and Confirmed Cases

- Immediately isolate, and seek medical care for, any individual who becomes ill or develops symptoms.
- Contact the local health department about suspected COVID-19 cases or exposure.
- The affected person should seek COVID-19 testing as soon as possible. Teams, schools, and clubs should work with parents to ensure they have access to testing through their healthcare providers or direct them to testing options.
- Coaches/administrators must work with the local health department to identify individuals who were potentially exposed to help facilitate contact tracing. This includes, but is not limited to, athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers, parents and other support personnel.
- A team, school, or club must notify all athletes and parents/ guardians associated with the affected team regarding a positive test. Athletes and families must be reminded of proper daily health screening protocols.
- If the affected individual participated in competitive play, the team is responsible for notifying any opponents played between the date of the positive test and 2 days prior to the onset of symptoms. If the teams, schools, or clubs reside in different counties, the health departments in each county should be notified to help facilitate effective contact tracing.

- Work with local health department to identify potentially infected or exposed individuals to help facilitate effective exposure notification.
- To the extent possible, facilitate testing of all suspected infections or exposures.
- Following testing, contact local health department to initiate appropriate care and exposure notification.
- Teams, schools, and clubs should establish a partnership with a local healthcare provider to help accelerate testing if needed.
- When a player, coach, or athletic trainer tests positive for COVID-19, team members who are not close contacts requiring self-quarantine as determined by the local health department, should conduct (1) Daily symptoms assessment and stay home if sick, and (2) An in-person temperature check before the start of each practice and game for 14 days as a precaution.

Mandatory

Suspected and Confirmed Cases (cont.)

- An individual who tests positive for COVID-19, whether symptomatic or asymptomatic, must not return to sport activities until (1) Meeting the CDC requirements for ending self-isolation using either a symptom-based or test-based strategy** and (2) A documented medical exam is performed clearing the individual to return to play. The documented medical exam must specifically include an assessment of the cardiac/heart risk of high-intensity exercise due to the potential of myocarditis occurring in COVID-19 patients. More information on this issue can be found at <https://www.acc.org/latest-in-cardiology/articles/2020/07/13/13/37/returning-to-play-after-coronavirus-infection>.
- Players, coaches, officials or other individuals who had close contact (within six feet of an infected individual for at least 15 minutes), or who had direct physical contact with the person, or who were coughed or sneezed on by the infected person, must self-quarantine for 14 days following exposure based on CDC guidance.*** Individuals may return to play afterward if they have not had any COVID-19 symptoms.

Recommended Best Practices

* Per CDC, COVID-19 symptoms include fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea. This list does not include all possible symptoms. CDC will continue to update symptoms as more is learned about COVID-19. CDC's list of COVID-19 symptoms and a "self-checker" is available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>.

** CDC guidance on "When You Can be Around Others After You Had or Likely Had COVID-19" at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/end-home-isolation.html>.

***CDC guidance on "Quarantine If You Might Be Sick (Stay Home if You Might Have Been Exposed to COVID-19)" at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html>.