



**EMERGENCY ORDER NUMBER 11  
PALM BEACH COUNTY COVID-19  
ADDITIONAL DIRECTIVE ON RECREATIONAL FACILITIES**

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19, a respiratory illness caused by a virus that spreads rapidly from person to person and may result in serious illness or death, constitutes a clear and present threat to the lives, health, welfare, and safety of the people of Palm Beach County; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 9, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis, issued Executive Order 20-52 declaring a state of emergency for the State of Florida as a result of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, pursuant to Section 252.38(3)(a)(5), Florida Statutes, Palm Beach County declared a local State of Emergency due to the Coronavirus pandemic, which has since been extended in accordance with applicable law; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 24, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis also issued Executive Order 20-83 directing the State Surgeon General and the State Health Officer to issue a public health advisory for senior persons and persons that have a serious underlying medical condition that places them at a high risk of severe illness from COVID-19 to stay at home. Such conditions include, but are not limited to, chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma; serious heart conditions; immunocompromised status, including those in cancer treatment; and severe obesity; and

**WHEREAS**, Governor Ron DeSantis has issued a number of subsequent Executive Orders in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including Executive Order 20-112, a Phase 1: Safe Smart Step-by-Step Plan for Florida's Recovery, under which the Governor reopened certain businesses; Executive Order 20-120 which, among other things, served to include Palm Beach County under Phase 1; and Executive Order 20-123, in which the Governor extended and brought all Florida counties into Full Phase 1; and

**WHEREAS**, the County Administrator pursuant to the authorities cited below has issued various Emergency Orders, including Emergency Order 2020-005, effective on April 29, 2020, and Emergency Order 2020-007, effective on May 18, 2020, which amended Emergency Order 2020-005, providing for the phased restart of boating and marine activities, golf courses, public and private parks, natural areas, tennis courts and community pools; and

**WHEREAS**, Governor Ron DeSantis in Executive Order 20-131 modified Executive Order 20-123 to allow organized youth activities to operate, including youth sports teams and leagues, youth clubs and programs, child care, summer camps, and youth recreation camps; and

**WHEREAS**, it is desirable and prudent to further amend Palm Beach County's Emergency Order 2020-005 to authorize operation of the youth activities described in Executive Order 20-131 and to modify and adjust the requirements related to boating and marine activities, golf courses, and public and private parks; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** pursuant to Palm Beach County Code Chapter 9, Article II, Section 9-35, as well as the authorities granted to me by Declaration of Emergency issued by Governor DeSantis in Executive Order 20-52, by Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, by the Board of County Commissioners, by the Palm Beach County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, and as otherwise provided by law, I hereby order as follows:

1. The foregoing recitals are hereby incorporated herein by reference.
2. This Order applies in all incorporated and unincorporated areas of Palm Beach County.
3. In accordance with Executive Order 20-131, organized youth activities may operate, including youth sports teams and leagues, youth clubs and programs, and child care. Summer camps and youth recreation camps may operate including, but not limited to, those defined in Sections 409.175 and 513.02, Florida Statutes, respectively.
4. Emergency Order 2020-005, as amended by Emergency Order 2020-007, is hereby further amended as follows:
  - a. Attachment 2, Revision 1 is hereby deleted in its entirety and replaced with Attachment 2, Revision 2, entitled "Boating and Marine Activity Requirements." All references to Attachment 2, Revision 1, shall be replaced with Attachment 2, Revision 2.
  - b. Attachment 3, Revision 1 is hereby deleted in its entirety and replaced with Attachment 3, Revision 2, entitled "Golf Requirements." All references to Attachment 3, Revision 1, shall be replaced with Attachment 3, Revision 2.
  - c. Attachment 4, Revision 1 is hereby deleted in its entirety and replaced with Attachment 4, Revision 2, entitled "Public Parks, Private Parks, and Natural Areas Reopening Guidelines." All references to Attachment 4, Revision 1, shall be replaced with Attachment 4, Revision 2.

All other provisions of Emergency Order 2020-005 and Emergency Order 2020-007 remain in full effect.

4. Any provision(s) within this Amendment that conflict(s) with any state or federal law or constitutional provision, or conflict(s) with, or are superseded by, a current or subsequently-issued Executive Order of the Governor or the President of the United States, shall be deemed inapplicable and deemed to be severed from this Amendment, with the remainder of the Amendment remaining intact and in full force and effect. To the extent application of some or all of the provisions of this Amendment is prohibited on the sovereign land of a federally or state recognized sovereign or Indian tribe, such application is expressly excluded from this Amendment. The provisions of this Amendment shall supersede the specific provisions of any previously issued County Emergency Order that is contrary to or in conflict with this Amendment.

5. This Amendment shall be effective as of 12:00 a.m. on June 11, 2020. This Amendment shall expire upon the expiration of the existing State of Local Emergency, as same may be extended by subsequent order or declaration, unless earlier terminated by subsequent order.

**PALM BEACH COUNTY**

By: *Yordana C. Baker*  
County Administrator

*June 10, 2020*  
Date

**APPROVED AS TO  
LEGAL SUFFICIENCY**

By: *Denise Marie Nieman*  
County Attorney

ATTEST  
CLERK & COMPTROLLER  
*Sharon H. Beck*  
By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk

**ATTACHMENT 2 – REVISION 2**  
**BOATING AND MARINE ACTIVITY REQUIREMENTS**

**A. Marinas, Boat Docks, Ramps, and Other Launching Venues.**

1. Services Provided: Marinas, boat docks, boat ramps, and any other venues used for launching vessels for recreational purposes, as well as dry stack storage facilities, (collectively, “Launching Venues”), shall be allowed to operate provided that CDC Guidelines, including all social distancing guidelines, are adhered to. Launching Venue retail operations may operate in accordance with State of Florida Office of the Governor Executive Order 20-112 and related subsequent orders applicable to Palm Beach County.
2. Restaurants: Restaurant operations at Launching Venues may operate in accordance with State of Florida Office of the Governor Executive Order 20-112 and related subsequent orders applicable to Palm Beach County.
3. Facial Coverings: In accordance with CDC Guidelines, in addition to practicing social distancing, Launching Venue staff, as well as customers, should utilize personal protective equipment, including, but not limited to, face coverings and gloves.
4. Boat Distances and Overnight Parking: All vessels on the water, including but not limited to boats, shall remain at least 50 feet apart at all times. Overnight parking, whether vehicles or vessels, at boat ramps is prohibited.

**B. Marine Activities.**

1. Prohibited Activities: Marine recreational activities, including, but not limited to, fishing, jet skiing, and recreational boating, shall be allowed in accordance with CDC Guidelines, however the following activities remain prohibited:
  - a. Boating and any recreational activities that do not comply with CDC Guidelines, including, but not limited to, any activities that do not allow for proper social distancing.
  - b. Flotillas, which include but are not limited to, two or more boats traveling together or anchored within 50 feet of each other.
  - c. Any activities resulting in gatherings of more than 10 people.
  - d. Rafting up of boats, which includes but is not limited to, the roping or tying together of boats or vessels.
  - e. Beaching, landings, anchoring, or mooring of vessels on sandbars, islands, and open shorelines.

f. Any non-commercial boating that exceeds the following capacity limitations:

Boats 25' or less: 4 adult passengers maximum, plus children 17 and under.  
Maximum of 6 people on the boat.

Boats 26' - 36': 6 adult passengers maximum, plus children 17 and under.  
Maximum of 8 people on the boat.

Boats 37'-60': 8 adult passengers maximum, plus children 17 and under.  
Maximum of 10 people on the boat.

Boats over 60': 10 passengers maximum, not including crew members.

### **C. Charter Boats, Fishing Boats, and Dive Boats.**

1. Charter boats, fishing boats, and dive boats ("Commercial Recreational Vessels"), may resume operations provided that CDC Guidelines, including all social distancing guidelines, are adhered to. In addition, Commercial Recreational Vessels shall adhere to the following restrictions:

- a. Any services offered in connection with Commercial Recreational Vessels that do not comply with CDC Guidelines, including, but not limited to, any activities that do not allow for proper social distancing, are prohibited.
- b. All patrons utilizing Commercial Recreational Vessels should have their own equipment, including, but not limited to, fishing poles and tackle.
- c. All restrooms on Commercial Recreational Vessels shall post CDC cleanliness guidelines. Soap, water, and/or hand sanitizer for patrons is required. Restrooms shall be cleaned and disinfected regularly throughout the day.
- d. All Commercial Recreational Vessels shall delineate patron or group seating positions, including, but not limited to, dive seats and fishing positions, a minimum of 6 feet apart by utilizing tape or any other adhesive to ensure proper social distancing. In addition, all landside services relating to Commercial Recreational Vessels that require patrons to form a line shall delineate, utilizing tape or any other adhesive, 6 feet distances to ensure proper social distancing.
- e. All fish cleaning/bait stations shall be limited to one person per station at a time. In addition, proper cleaning and sanitation process shall be practiced.
- f. Any fish filleting services offered in connection with Commercial Recreational Vessels shall be limited to one mate per table.

- g. In accordance with CDC Guidelines, in addition to practicing social distancing, all persons utilizing Commercial Recreational Vessels, whether on the dock, on board, or as part of the landside operations, including, but not limited to, the captain, crew, and patrons, should utilize personal protective equipment, including, but not limited to, face coverings and gloves.

**D. Rentals of Jet Skis, Boats, Canoes, Kayaks, and Paddle Boards.**

1. Rentals of jet skis, boats, canoes, kayaks, and paddle boards may resume operations provided that CDC Guidelines, including all social distancing guidelines, are adhered to. In addition, the following restrictions shall apply:
  - a. Jet Ski Rentals: Jet ski rental operations shall be limited to single riders only (or to one adult and one immediate child family member).
  - b. Boat Rentals: Boat rental companies shall adhere to the same guidelines applicable to all boating activities set forth in this Order, including this Attachment.
  - c. Canoes/Kayaks/Paddle Boards: shall be limited to single person use or two-person use if 6 feet distancing is possible.

**E. Marine Construction, Repair, and Commercial Fishing.**

1. Marine construction, vessel/engine repairs and maintenance and commercial fishing may resume operations provided that CDC Guidelines, including all social distancing guidelines, are adhered to. In addition, commercial fishing, commercial marine operations, and support services thereto are permitted to continue to operate as previously provided in PBC Emergency Order 2020-001a.
2. Commercial Fishermen with proper license documentation will continue to have 24-hour access to designated ramp sites; this access shall also include fishing guides who carry less than four passengers and possess a commercial charter, six-pack or higher Captain's license and a county registered business license.

**F. Saltwater and Freshwater Boat Ramp/Launch Protocol.**

1. Saltwater and freshwater boat ramps ("Boat Ramps") may be utilized provided that CDC Guidelines, including all social distancing guidelines, are adhered to. In addition, the following protocol shall be followed:
  - a. Boat Ramps shall be open sunrise to sunset except for when utilized by commercial boats (24-hour access at designated sites) unless further modified by appropriate authorities.

- b. One (1) boat per launch ramp bay at a time. Vessels must be prepared in advance to launch (i.e., plug secured, dock lines tied, safety equipment and provisions already onboard). All passengers must board the vessel once it is launched.
- c. Upon returning to the dock, all passengers must remain on the vessel until the boat is ready to be loaded onto the trailer. Once loaded, the passenger(s) shall return to their vehicle(s) and exit the launch facility together.

**G. Fishing Piers, Fish Cleaning Stations, Public Restrooms/Ship Stores, and Fuel Docks**

- 1. Fishing piers, fish cleaning stations, public restrooms, ship stores (bait and tackle), and fuel docks may operate and be utilized provided that CDC Guidelines, including all social distancing guidelines, are adhered to. In addition, the following protocol shall be followed:
  - a. Fish cleaning stations: Shall be limited to access by one (1) person per station at a time. Proper cleaning and sanitation processes should always be practiced.
  - b. Fishing piers: Physical distancing at a minimum of 6 feet between fishermen must be followed.
  - a. Public restrooms: Access to public restrooms shall be available. Restrooms shall be cleaned and disinfected regularly throughout the day. Soap and water or hand sanitizer and/or disinfectant wipes shall be provided in each restroom.
  - b. Ship stores (bait and tackle): Those entering ship (bait & tackle) stores should, in accordance with CDC Guidelines, in addition to practicing social distancing, utilize personal protective equipment, including, but not limited to, face coverings.
  - c. Fuel docks: Shall be permitted to operate in compliance with CDC Guidelines.

**ATTACHMENT 3- REVISION 2 GOLF REQUIREMENTS**

3a: Golf Course Requirements

**All municipal, public, and privately run golf courses in Palm Beach County shall adhere to the following:**

1. Play shall be set-up for walking, single-rider golf cart, shared cart with internal physical passenger divider from the seat to the roof, players wearing masks, or for families living in the same household. Course staff shall confirm household verification by ID. Shared carts shall be marked and identified by a small colored flag to indicate verified family sharing.
2. A course's practice facilities, including driving ranges, may open. The practice facilities shall be set up so that golfers are spaced at least 10 feet apart and golfers shall not congregate on or near the driving range.
3. Golf instruction and club fitting may be conducted following strict social distancing guidelines.
4. Players shall not congregate near the check-in or starter's booth.
5. Staff shall not handle bags, clubs, or other equipment, or transport these items to and from the parking lot: players will be responsible for bringing their golf equipment to a designated area.
6. Clubhouses shall operate at the same maximum capacities applicable to restaurants in accordance with State of Florida Office of the Governor Executive Order 20-112 and related subsequent orders applicable to Palm Beach County.
7. All league, clinic, camp, youth and other organized activities are allowed following strict social distancing guidelines.
8. Caddy service is allowed with strict social distancing measures in place.
9. Restaurants may open for take-out service or on-premises consumption of food and beverage in accordance with State of Florida Office of the Governor Executive Order 20-112 and related subsequent orders applicable to Palm Beach County.
10. In the event that golf course restaurants are open for take-out service, designated signage shall be placed on carts and around the clubhouse with the phone number to call for food orders and an explanation of how to pay, if such service is offered by the facility.



11. There shall be no club storage or retrieval by staff except as required under the Americans with Disabilities Act.
12. Check in and payment shall be conducted in compliance with the CDC guidelines available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/social-distancing.html> and in Attachment 1 as amended. Remote check-in procedures are encouraged. Access to the pro shop shall be limited and controlled to ensure social distancing guidelines are met in accordance with State of Florida Office of the Governor Executive Order 20-112 and related subsequent orders applicable to Palm Beach County.
13. Club Staff should wear protective equipment as recommended by the CDC Guidelines.
14. Tee times shall be maintained at a minimum of 9-minute intervals for purposes of social distancing.
15. Food and beverage carts shall be allowed with staff wearing protective equipment and utilizing procedures that maintain best sanitary practices and social distancing guidelines, including:
  - Staff will be required to wear a facemask and gloves;
  - Signage will be placed on beverage carts stating that no player will be allowed to touch anything on the beverage cart; and
  - Only cart attendant will distribute items from the cart.
16. Designated signage shall be placed outside the pro-shop and clubhouse outlining the social distancing and facial covering mandates of the CDC Guidelines.
17. A swimming “noodle” or similar device shall be used to fill the hole, or the cup will be raised an inch above ground to prevent the ball from going in the hole. Players shall be informed not to touch or remove flagsticks from the cups at all times; unless a touchless ball removal device is used.
18. Rakes in all bunkers shall be removed: the USGA suggests golfers play preferred lie and players to “rake” with their feet.
19. Shared materials shall be removed from golf carts and only issued to individuals when requested from starter. Where appropriate, such items shall thereafter be discarded after their initial use. Non-disposal items shall be thoroughly disinfected by staff prior to use by subsequent golfers.
20. All ball washers accessible to players will be removed or locked down.
21. When playing, golfers shall practice social distancing per the CDC Guidelines.
22. On-course and club restrooms shall be cleaned and disinfected regularly throughout the day.

23. Soap and water, or hand sanitizer and/or disinfectant wipes, shall be provided in each restroom.
24. All portable water stations shall be removed. Pre-wired water stations may be used to fill water containers. Golfers shall be instructed to use their gloved hand for water access.
25. Golfers shall be instructed to bring their own water and bottles for proper hydration; restrictions are lifted for personal coolers containing water.
26. Golf carts shall be cleaned and disinfected after each round.
27. Players shall not congregate after play. Players shall leave the golf facility immediately upon completion of play.
28. Courses shall distribute course rules and the list of Golfer Responsibilities (Attachment 3b. titled “Golfer Responsibilities”) upon check-in.

### 3b: Golfer Responsibilities

1. Players shall not congregate near the check-in or starter’s booth.
2. Staff shall not handle bags, clubs, or other equipment, or transport these items to and from parking lot: players will be responsible for bringing their golf equipment to a designated area.
3. Players shall not touch or remove flagsticks from the cups at any time (any putts that hit the swimming “noodle” or similar device used to fill the hole, or the cup, will be considered holed), unless a touchless ball removal device is used.
4. Rakes in all bunkers shall be removed by golf course staff: the USGA suggests golfers play preferred lie and players to “rake” with their feet.
5. When playing, golfers should maximize physical distance per CDC Guidelines at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/socialdistancing.html> and attached to Palm Beach County Emergency Order No. 5, including any amendments thereto. All players shall stay at least six (6) feet apart at all times, and a course ranger or other staff member shall monitor player compliance on the course.
6. Play is set-up for walking, single-rider golf cart, shared cart with internal physical passenger divider from the seat to the roof, players wearing masks, or shared cart for families living in the same household. Course staff shall confirm household verification by ID. Shared carts shall be marked and identified by a small colored flag to indicate verified family sharing.

7. Golfers shall bring their own water bottles and personal coolers containing water for proper hydration. When utilizing pre-wired water stations to fill water containers, golfers shall use their gloved hand for water access.
8. Golfers are encouraged to change shoes in the parking lot and bring their own hand sanitizer.
9. All golfers shall not congregate after play and shall leave the golf facility immediately upon completion of play to eliminate congestion and gathering on the property or in the parking lot.

**ATTACHMENT 4 - REVISION 2**  
**PUBLIC PARKS, PRIVATE PARKS, AND NATURAL AREAS REOPENING**  
**REQUIREMENTS**

**A. Public parks, private parks, and natural areas requirements:**

1. Public county and municipal parks, private parks, and natural areas may reopen provided that CDC Guidelines, including all social distancing guidelines, are adhered to.
2. Police, park rangers, and designated facility staff shall patrol parks and natural areas and monitor and ensure compliance with physical distancing guidelines.
3. Parks shall follow CDC Guidelines to keep open facilities clean and sanitized. Restroom availability may be limited.
4. Park hours shall be sunrise to sunset with the exception of supervised sports facilities with lights and unless further modified by appropriate authorities.
5. Natural areas, trails, jogging paths (one-way, unidirectional) are only open for walking, running, strolling, biking, and equestrian riding, where otherwise allowed.
6. Fishing, canoeing/kayaking, fresh water boat ramps, water skiing, wake boarding, disc golf, canoe, kayak and bicycle rental, dog parks, supervised skate parks and bicycle tracks, are permitted as long as CDC Guidelines, including, but not limited to, social distancing are practiced and supervision is in place in skate parks and bicycle tracks.
7. Equestrian activities may reopen provided that CDC Guidelines including, but not limited to, proper social distancing are followed.

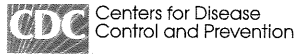
**B. Restriction of recreational activities in public parks, private parks, and natural areas:**

1. All park playgrounds, play and exercise equipment shall remain closed.
2. Picnic pavilions serving up to 10 persons may be open.
3. Use of water fountains is prohibited with the exception of bottle filler stations and dog water fountains.
4. Congregating in groups of 10 or more is prohibited.
5. Courts including basketball, tennis, pickleball, and racquetball may be open.
6. Recreation buildings and gymnasiums may reopen subject to the capacity limitations and social distancing guidelines included in State of Florida Office of the Governor Executive Order 20-112 and related subsequent orders applicable to Palm Beach County.

7. Campgrounds shall remain closed.
8. Field and lawn sports are allowed with no more than 50 persons per field including sidelines. All waiting players and spectators shall maintain 6 ft. physical distancing.
9. Field and lawn sports shall promote hygiene and not permit hand slaps, huddles, or shared water bottles and food. Sportsmanship shall continue in a touchless manner.
10. Youth sports activities and leagues are permitted. Organizers and sponsors of youth sports activities and leagues should be familiar with CDC Considerations for Youth Sports included herein as Section C and utilize them in identification and implementation of measures to protect players, coaches, instructors, and spectators.
11. Use of shared sports equipment is discouraged. Balls and team benches shall be disinfected before and after each practice or game.
12. Food and beverage concessions are permitted in accordance with State of Florida Office of the Governor Executive Order 20-112 and related subsequent orders applicable to Palm Beach County.

**C. CDC CONSIDERATIONS FOR YOUTH SPORTS**

**(REFER TO FOLLOWING PAGES)**



# Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

## Considerations for Youth Sports

As some communities in the United States begin to start youth sports activities again, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) offers the following considerations for ways in which youth sports organizations can protect players, families, and communities and slow the spread of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). Administrators of youth sports organizations can consult with [state and local health officials](#) to determine if and how to put into place these considerations. Each community may need to make adjustments to meet its unique needs and circumstances. Implementation should be guided by what is practical, acceptable, and tailored to the needs of each community. These considerations are meant to supplement – **not replace** – any state, local, territorial, or tribal health and safety laws, rules, and regulations with which youth sports organizations must comply.

## Guiding Principles to Keep in Mind

There are a number of actions youth sports organizations can take to help lower the risk of COVID-19 exposure and reduce the spread during competition and practice. The more people a child or coach interacts with, the closer the physical interaction, the more sharing of equipment there is by multiple players, and the longer that interaction, the higher the risk of COVID-19 spread. Therefore, risk of COVID-19 spread can be different, depending on the type of activity. The risk of COVID-19 spread increases in youth sports settings as follows:

- **Lowest Risk:** Performing skill-building drills or conditioning at home, alone or with family members.
- **Increasing Risk:** Team-based practice.
- **More Risk:** Within-team competition.
- **Even More Risk:** Full competition between teams from the same local geographic area.
- **Highest Risk:** Full competition between teams from different geographic areas.

If organizations are not able to keep in place safety measures during competition (for example, maintaining social distancing by keeping children six feet apart at all times), they may consider dropping down a level and limiting participation to within-team competition only (for example, scrimmages between members of the same team) or team-based practices only. Similarly, if organizations are unable to put in place safety measures during team-based activities, they may choose individual or at-home activities, especially if any members of the team are at [high-risk for severe illness](#).

## Assessing Risk

The way sports are played, and the way equipment is shared can influence the spread of COVID-19 among players. When you are assessing the risk of spread in your sport, consider:

- **Physical closeness of players, and the length of time that players are close to each other or to staff.** Sports that require frequent closeness between players may make it more difficult to maintain social distancing, compared to sports where players are not close to each other. For close-contact sports (e.g., wrestling, basketball), play may be modified to safely increase distance between players.
  - For example, players and coaches can:
    - focus on individual skill building versus competition;
    - limit the time players spend close to others by playing full contact only in game-time situations;
    - decrease the number of competitions during a season.

Coaches can also modify practices so players work on individual skills, rather than on competition. Coaches may also put players into small groups (cohorts) that remain together and work through stations, rather than switching groups or mixing groups.

- **Amount of necessary touching of shared equipment and gear (e.g., protective gear, balls, bats, racquets, mats, or water bottles).** It is also possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and

bettes). It is also possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it, and then touching their own mouth, nose, or eyes. Minimize equipment sharing, and clean and disinfect shared equipment between use by different people to reduce the risk of COVID-19 spread.

- **Ability to engage in social distancing while not actively engaged in play (e.g., during practice, on the sideline, or in the dugout).** During times when players are not actively participating in practice or competition, attention should be given to maintaining *social distancing* by increasing space between players on the sideline, dugout, or bench. Additionally, coaches can encourage athletes to use downtime for individual skill-building work or cardiovascular conditioning, rather than staying clustered together.
- **Age of the player.** Older youth might be better able to follow directions for social distancing and take other protective actions like not sharing water bottles. If feasible, a coach, parent, or other caregiver can assist with making sure that athletes maintain proper social distancing. For younger athletes, youth sports programs may ask parents or other household members to monitor their children and make sure that they follow social distancing and take other protective actions (e.g., younger children could sit with parents or caregivers, instead of in a dugout or group area).
- **Players at higher risk of developing serious disease.** Parents and coaches should assess level of risk based on individual players on the team who may be at *higher risk for severe illness*, such as children who may have asthma, diabetes, or other health problems.
- **Size of the team.** Sports with a large number of players on a team may increase the likelihood of spread, compared to sports with fewer team members. Consider decreasing team sizes, as feasible.
- **Nonessential visitors, spectators, volunteers.** Limit any nonessential visitors, spectators, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations.
- **Travel outside of the local community.** Traveling outside of the local community may increase the chances of exposing players, coaches, and fans to COVID-19, or unknowingly spreading it to others. This is the case particularly if a team from an area with high levels of COVID-19 competes with a team from an area with low levels of the virus. Youth sports teams should consider competing only against teams in their local area (e.g., neighborhood, town, or community).

## Promoting Behaviors that Reduce Spread

Youth sports organizations may consider implementing several strategies to encourage behaviors that reduce the spread of COVID-19.

- **Staying Home when Appropriate**
  - Educate staff and player families about when they should stay home and when they can return to activity
    - Actively encourage sick staff, families, and players to stay home. Develop policies that encourage sick employees to stay at home without fear of reprisal, and ensure employees aware of these policies.
    - Individuals, including coaches, players, and families, should stay home if they have tested positive for or are showing COVID-19 symptoms.
    - Individuals, including coaches, players, and families, who have recently had a *close contact* with a person with COVID-19 should also stay home and monitor their health.
    - CDC's criteria can help inform return to work/school policies:
      - If they have been sick with COVID-19
      - If they have recently had a close contact with a person with COVID-19
- **Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette**
  - Teach and reinforce *handwashing* with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
    - If soap and water are not readily available, hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol can be used (for staff and older children who can safely use hand sanitizer).
  - Do not allow spitting and encourage everyone to cover their coughs and sneezes with a tissue or use the inside of their elbow. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash and hands washed immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
    - If soap and water are not readily available, hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol can be used.
- **Cloth Face Coverings**
  - Teach and reinforce the use of *cloth face coverings*. Face coverings are not intended to protect the wearer, but rather to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 from the person wearing the mask (who may not have any symptoms of disease). Face coverings may be challenging for players (especially younger players) to wear while playing sports. Face coverings should be worn by coaches, youth sports staff, officials, parents, and spectators as much as possible.
  - Wearing cloth face coverings is most important when physical distancing is difficult

- Wearing cloth face coverings is most important when physical distancing is difficult.
- o People wearing face coverings should be reminded to not touch the face covering and to wash their hands frequently. Information should be provided to all participants on the proper use, removal, and washing of cloth face coverings.
  - Note: Cloth face coverings should **not** be placed on:
    - Babies and children younger than 2 years old;
    - Anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious;
    - Anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the cloth face covering without assistance.
- **Adequate Supplies**
  - o If hand washing facilities are available, support healthy hygiene by providing supplies including soap, paper towels, tissues, and no-touch/foot pedal trash cans. If hand washing facilities are not available, provide hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol (for coaches, staff and older players who can safely use hand sanitizer).
- **Signs and Messages**
  - o Post signs in highly visible locations (e.g., at entrances and exits, and in restrooms) that promote everyday protective measures and describe how to stop the spread of germs such as by properly washing hands and properly wearing a cloth face covering .
  - o Broadcast regular announcements on public announcement (PA) system
  - o Include COVID-19 prevention messages (for example, videos) about behaviors that prevent spread of COVID-19 when communicating with staff, volunteers, officials, and families. This could include links, videos, and prevention messages in emails, on organization websites, and through the team and league's social media accounts.
  - o Find freely available CDC print and digital resources on CDC's communication resources main page.

## Maintaining Healthy Environments

Youth sports organizations may consider implementing several strategies to maintain healthy environments.

- **Cleaning and Disinfection**
  - o Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces on the field, court, or play surface (e.g., drinking fountains) at least daily, or between uses as much as possible. Use of shared objects and equipment (e.g., balls, bats, gymnastics equipment) should be limited, or cleaned between use by each individual if possible.
  - o Develop a schedule for increased, routine cleaning and disinfection.
  - o Ensure safe and correct use and storage of disinfectants, including storing products securely away from children. Use products that meet EPA disinfection criteria .
  - o Identify an adult staff member or volunteer to ensure proper cleaning and disinfection of objects and equipment, particularly for any shared equipment or frequently touched surfaces.
  - o Cleaning products should not be used near children, and staff should ensure that there is adequate ventilation when using these products to prevent children or themselves from inhaling toxic fumes.
  - o Use gloves when removing garbage bags or handling and disposing of trash. Wash hands after removing gloves.
- **Shared Objects**
  - o Discourage sharing of items that are difficult to clean, sanitize, or disinfect. Do not let players share towels, clothing, or other items they use to wipe their faces or hands.
  - o Make sure there are adequate supplies of shared items to minimize sharing of equipment to the extent possible (e.g., protective gear, balls, bats, water bottles); otherwise, limit use of supplies and equipment to one group of players at a time and clean and disinfect between use.
    - Keep each player's belongings separated from others' and in individually labeled containers, bags, or areas.
    - If food is offered at any event, have pre-packaged boxes or bags for each attendee instead of a buffet or family-style meal. Avoid sharing food and utensils. Offer hand sanitizer or encourage hand washing.
- **Ventilation**
  - o If playing inside, ensure ventilation systems or fans operate properly. Increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible, for example by opening windows and doors. Do not open windows and doors if doing so poses a safety or health risk (e.g., risk of falling or triggering asthma symptoms) to players or others using the facility.
- **Water Systems**
  - o To minimize the risk of Legionnaires' disease and other diseases associated with water, take steps to ensure that all water systems and features (e.g., drinking fountains, decorative fountains) are safe to use after a prolonged facility



shutdown. Drinking fountains should be cleaned and disinfected but encourage staff and players to bring their own water to minimize touching water fountains.

- **Modified Layouts and Social (Physical) Distancing**
  - Identify adult staff members or volunteers to help maintain **social distancing** among youth, coaches, umpires/referees, and spectators (if state and local directives allow for spectators).
  - Space players at least 6 feet apart on the field while participating in the sport (e.g., during warmup, skill building activities, simulation drills)
  - Discourage unnecessary physical contact, such as high fives, handshakes, fist bumps, or hugs.
  - Prioritize outdoor, as opposed to indoor, practice and play as much as possible.
  - Create distance between players when explaining drills or the rules of the game.
  - If keeping physical distance is difficult with players in competition or group practice, consider relying on individual skill work and drills.
  - Encourage players to wait in their cars with guardians until just before the beginning of a practice, warm-up, or game, instead of forming a group.
  - Limit the use of carpools or van pools. When riding in an automobile to a sports event, encourage players to ride to the sports event with persons living in their same household.
  - If practices or competition facilities must be shared, consider increasing the amount of time between practices and competitions to allow for one group to leave before another group enters the facility. If possible, allow time for cleaning and/or disinfecting.
- **Physical Barriers and Guides**
  - Provide physical guides, such as signs and tape on floors or playing fields, to make sure that coaches and players remain at least 6 feet apart.
- **Communal Spaces**
  - 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 (e.g., if spectators are not allowed).

## Maintaining Healthy Operations

Youth sports organizations may consider implementing several strategies to maintain healthy operations.

- **Protections for Staff and Players at Higher Risk for Severe Illness from COVID-19**
  - Offer options for individuals at **higher risk** of severe illness from COVID-19 (risk increases with age, and people of any age with certain medical conditions are at higher risk), such as virtual coaching and in-home drills that limits their exposure risk.
  - Limit youth sports participation to staff and youth who live in the local geographic area (e.g., community, city, town, or county) to reduce risk of spread from areas with higher levels of COVID-19.
- **Regulatory Awareness**
  - Be aware of state or local regulatory agency policies related to group gatherings to determine if events can be held.
- **Identifying Small Groups and Keeping them Together (Cohorting)**
  - Keep players together in small groups with dedicated coaches or staff, and make sure that each group of players and coach avoid mixing with other groups as much as possible. Teams might consider having the same group of players stay with the same coach or having the same group of players rotate among coaches.
  - Consider staging within-team scrimmages instead of playing games with other teams to minimize exposure among players and teams.
- **Staggered Scheduling**
  - Stagger arrival and drop-off times or locations by cohort (group) or put in place other protocols to limit contact between groups and with guardians as much as possible. One example is increasing the amount of time between practices and competitions to allow for one group to depart before another group enters the facility. This also allows for more time to clean the facility between uses.
  - When possible, use flexible worksites (e.g., telework) and flexible work hours (e.g., staggered shifts) to help establish policies and practices for social distancing (maintaining a distance of approximately 6 feet) between employees and others, especially if social distancing is recommended by state and local health authorities.

- **Gatherings, Spectators, and Travel**
  - Avoid group events, such as games, competitions, or social gatherings, where spacing of at least 6 feet between people cannot be maintained.
  - Limit any nonessential visitors, spectators, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations as much as possible – especially with individuals not from the local geographic area (e.g., community, town, city, or county).
  - Avoid activities and events such as off-site competitions or excursions (e.g., watching a professional team compete).
- **Designated COVID-19 Point of Contact**
  - Designate a youth sports program staff person to be responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns. All coaches, staff, officials, and families should know who this person is and how to contact them.
- **Communication Systems**
  - Put systems in place for:
    - Consistent with applicable law and privacy policies, having coaches, staff, umpires/officials, and families of players (as feasible) self-report to the youth sports organization if they have *symptoms* of COVID-19, a positive test for COVID-19, or were exposed to someone with COVID-19 within the last 14 days in accordance with *health information sharing regulations for COVID-19* [\[4\]](#) (e.g. see “Notify Health Officials and Close Contacts” in the **Preparing for When Someone Gets Sick** section below), and other applicable laws and regulations.
    - Notifying staff, officials, families, and the public of youth sports facility closures and restrictions in place to limit COVID-19 exposure (e.g., limited hours of operation).
- **Leave (Time Off) Policies**
  - Implement flexible sick leave policies and practices for coaches, officials, and staff that enable employees to stay home when they are sick, have been exposed, or *caring for someone who is sick*.
    - Examine and revise policies for leave, telework, and employee compensation.
    - Leave policies should be flexible and not be punitive to people for taking time off and should allow sick employees to stay home and away from co-workers. Leave policies should also account for employees who need to stay home with their children if there are school or childcare closures, or to care for sick family members.
  - Develop policies for return-to-play after COVID-19 illness. CDC’s criteria to *discontinue home isolation and quarantine* can inform these policies.
- **Back-up Staffing Plan**
  - Monitor absenteeism of coaches and officials, cross-train staff, and create a roster of trained back-up personnel.
- **Coach and Staff Training**
  - Train coaches, officials, and staff on all safety protocols.
  - Conduct training virtually, or ensure that *social distancing* is maintained during training.
- **Recognize Signs and Symptoms**
  - If feasible, conduct daily health checks (e.g., *symptom checking*) of coaches, officials, staff, and players safely and respectfully, and in accordance with any applicable privacy and confidentiality laws and regulations.
  - Youth sports program administrators may use examples of screening methods found in CDC’s supplemental *Guidance for Child Care Programs that Remain Open* as a guide for screening children, and CDC’s *General Business FAQs* for screening staff.
- **Sharing Facilities**
  - Encourage any organizations that share or use the youth sports facilities to also follow these considerations.
- **Support Coping and Resilience**
  - Encourage employees to take breaks from watching, reading, or listening to news stories, including social media if they are feeling overwhelmed or distressed.
  - Promote healthy eating, exercising, getting sleep, and finding time to unwind.
  - Encourage employees to talk with people they trust about their concerns and how they are feeling.
  - Consider posting signs for the national distress hotline: 1-800-985-5990, or text TalkWithUs to 66746

## Preparing for When Someone Gets Sick



Youth sports organizations may consider implementing several strategies to prepare for when someone gets sick.

- **Advise Sick Individuals of Home Isolation Criteria**
  - Sick coaches, staff members, umpires/officials, or players should not return until they have met CDC's criteria to discontinue home isolation.
- **Isolate and Transport Those Who are Sick**
  - Make sure that coaches, staff, officials, players, and families know that sick individuals should not attend the youth sports activity, and that they should notify youth sports officials (e.g., the COVID-19 point of contact) if they (staff) or their child (families) become sick with COVID-19 symptoms, test positive for COVID-19, or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 symptoms or a confirmed or suspected case.
  - Immediately separate coaches, staff, officials, and players with COVID-19 symptoms (i.e., fever, cough, shortness of breath) at any youth sports activity. Individuals who are sick should go home or to a healthcare facility, depending on how severe their symptoms are, and follow CDC guidance for caring for oneself and others who are sick. Individuals who have had close contact with a person who has symptoms should be separated and sent home as well, and follow CDC guidance for community-related exposure (see "Notify Health Officials and Close Contacts" below). If symptoms develop, individuals and families should follow CDC guidance for caring for oneself and others who are sick.
  - Establish procedures for safely transporting anyone who is sick to their home or to a healthcare facility. If you are calling an ambulance or bringing someone to the hospital, try to call first to alert them that the person may have COVID-19.
- **Clean and Disinfect**
  - Close off areas used by a sick person and do not use these areas until after cleaning and disinfecting them (for outdoor areas, this includes surfaces or shared objects in the area, if applicable).
  - Wait at least 24 hours before cleaning and disinfecting. If 24 hours is not feasible, wait as long as possible. Ensure safe and correct use and storage of cleaning and disinfection products, including storing them securely away from children.
- **Notify Health Officials and Close Contacts**
  - In accordance with state and local privacy and confidentiality laws and regulations, youth sports organizations should notify local health officials, youth sports program staff, umpires/officials, and families immediately of any case of COVID-19 while maintaining confidentiality in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other applicable laws and regulations.
  - Work with local health officials to develop a reporting system (e.g., letter) youth sports organizations can use to notify health officials and close contacts of cases of COVID-19.
  - Advise those who have had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19 to stay home and self-monitor for symptoms, and to follow CDC guidance if symptoms develop.

## Communication Resources

**CHECKLIST FOR COACHES**  
Protect Players from COVID-19

- Send a welcome email or call parents and/or players. Inform them about actions that the sports program will take to protect players. Remind them to stay home if sick or if they have been around someone who is sick.
- Re a role model. Wear a cloth face cover and encourage parents, fans, officials, and sports staff to wear one during practices and games.
- Provide hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol to players before and after practice/game, or encourage them to wash their hands with soap and water.
- Educate players about covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue or their elbow. Photo: iStockphoto.com






**Checklist for Coaches**  
Help protect players and staff from COVID-19

Download  [PDF - 315 KB]

**KEEP YOUTH ATHLETES SAFE**  
Reduce the Spread of COVID-19 in Youth Sports

- Reduce physical closeness between players when possible
  - Allow players to focus on building individual skills, like batting, dribbling, kicking, and strength training
  - Limit all contact between players to game days (avoid during practice)
  - Increase space between players in the practice areas, including on the field/court, dugout, and bench
  - Avoid high fives, handshakes, fist bumps or hugs
- Minimize sharing of equipment or gear
  - Encourage players to bring their own equipment, like gloves, balls, and helmets (if possible)
  - Clean and disinfect shared items between uses
- Limit travel outside of your area

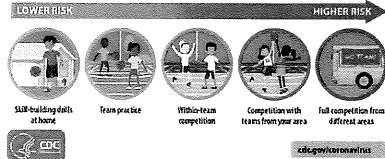
**Keep Youth Athletes Safe (Poster)**

Follow these tips to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in youth sports


Download  [PDF - 418 KB]

**YOUTH SPORTS GAME PLAN**  
Reduce the Spread of COVID-19

LOWER RISK → HIGHER RISK



skill-building drills at home    Team practice    Within-team competition    Competition with teams from your area    Full competition from different areas

 [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

**Assess Your Risk (Graphic)**

Game plan on to how reduce risk while playing sports

Download  [IMAGE - 425 KB]

**Letter for parents**

Dear Parents,



**STAY SAFE ON AND OFF THE FIELD**



Stay home if you are sick.    Bring your own equipment and gear (if possible).    Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your elbow.    Wash your hands or use sanitizer before and after events and.    Tell a coach or staff member if you don't feel well.



## Letter Template for Sports Administrators and Coaches

Send out a customized letter to parents to inform them about steps taken to protect players.

Download  [DOC – 65 KB]



## Sports Banner (6'X3')

Educate players on how to stay staff on and off the field

Download  [PDF – 408 KB]

## Other Resources

[Latest COVID-19 Information](#)

[Cleaning and Disinfection](#)

[Guidance for Businesses and Employers](#)

[Guidance for Park Administrators and Visitors \(including for aquatic venues\)](#)

[Guidance for Schools and Childcare Centers](#)

[Guidance for Park Administrators](#)

[COVID-19 Prevention](#)

[Handwashing Information](#)

[Face Coverings](#)

[Social Distancing](#)

[COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Persons at Higher Risk](#)

[Managing Stress and Coping](#)

[HIPAA and COVID-19 !\[\]\(8b0a097b4b9c9c3eeaea0f4289ea77e5\_img.jpg\)](#)

[CDC communication resources](#)

[Community Mitigation](#)

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