



INTERIM GUIDANCE FOR PROFESSIONAL SPORTS COMPETITIONS WITH NO FANS DURING THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

When you have read this document, you can affirm at the bottom.

As of September 11, 2020

Purpose

This Interim Guidance for Professional Sports Competitions with No Fans or Spectators during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency ("Interim COVID-19 Guidance for Professional Sports Competitions") was created to provide owners and managers of professional sports teams, athletes, team personnel, and venue personnel with precautions to help protect against the spread of COVID-19. For the purpose of this guidance, "professional sports activities" refers to all activities undertaken in preparation for professional sports competitions, as well as the conduct of such competitions, at an appropriate venue for professional sports competitions, such as a stadium or arena.

For the purposes of this document, professional sports are defined as any sporting event at which participants are paid by a league or team. This guidance does not apply to collegiate sports. This guidance does not apply to horse racing or auto racing, which are covered under separate guidance documents.

Owners, managers, athletes, team personnel, and venue personnel should reference relevant industry-specific Department of Health (DOH) guidelines where appropriate. Specifically, any activities taking place in offices must operate in accordance with "Interim Guidance for Office-Based Work during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency;" any activities taking place in professional sports training facilities must operate in accordance with "Interim Guidance for Professional Sports Training Facilities during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency;" any activities related to massage therapy or spas must operate in accordance with "Interim Guidance for Personal Care Services during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency;" and any activities related to food service in accordance with "Interim Guidance for Food Services during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency."

These guidelines are minimum requirements only and the management of any professional sports team or venue is free to provide additional precautions or increased restrictions. These guidelines are based on the best-known public health practices at the time of publication, and the documentation upon which these guidelines are based can and does change frequently. The Responsible Parties – as defined below – are accountable for adhering to all local, state and federal requirements relative to professional sports activities. The Responsible Parties are also accountable for staying current with any updates to these requirements, as well as incorporating same into any professional sports activities and/or Site Safety Plan.

Background

On March 7, 2020, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo issued Executive Order 202, declaring a state of emergency in response to COVID-19. Community transmission of COVID-19 has occurred throughout New York. To minimize further spread, social distancing of at least six feet must be maintained between individuals, where possible.

On March 20, 2020, Governor Cuomo issued [Executive Order 202.6](#), directing all non-essential businesses to close in-office personnel functions. Essential businesses, as defined by Empire State Development Corporation (ESD) [guidance](#), were not subject to the in-person restriction, but were, however, directed to comply with the guidance and directives for maintaining a clean and safe work environment issued by DOH, and were strongly urged to maintain social distancing measures to the extent possible.

On April 12, 2020, Governor Cuomo issued [Executive Order 202.16](#), directing essential businesses to provide employees, who are present in the workplace, with a face covering, at no-cost, that must be used when in direct contact with customers or members of the public during the course of their work. On April 15, 2020, Governor Cuomo issued [Executive Order 202.17](#), directing that any individual who is over age two and able to medically tolerate a face-covering must cover their nose and mouth with a mask or cloth face-covering when in a public place and unable to maintain, or when not maintaining, social distance. On April 16, 2020, Governor Cuomo issued [Executive Order 202.18](#), directing that everyone using public or private transportation carriers or other for-hire vehicles, who is over age two and able to medically tolerate a face covering, must wear a mask or face covering over the nose and mouth during any such trip. It also directed any operators or drivers of public or private transport to wear a face covering or mask which covers the nose and mouth while there are any passengers in such a vehicle. On May 29, 2020, Governor Cuomo issued [Executive Order 202.34](#), authorizing business operators/owners with the discretion to deny admittance to individuals who fail to comply with the face covering or mask requirements.

On April 26, 2020, Governor Cuomo [announced](#) a phased approach to reopen industries and businesses in New York in phases based upon a data-driven, regional analysis. On May 4, 2020, the Governor [provided](#) that the regional analysis would consider several public health factors, including new COVID-19 infections, as well as health care system, diagnostic testing, and contact tracing capacity. On May 11, 2020, Governor Cuomo [announced](#) that the first phase of reopening would begin on May 15, 2020 in several regions of New York, based upon available regional metrics and indicators. On May 29, 2020, Governor Cuomo [announced](#) that the second phase of reopening would begin in several regions of the state, and announced the use of a new early warning dashboard that aggregates the state's expansive data collection efforts for New Yorkers, government officials, and experts to monitor and review how the virus is being contained to ensure a safe reopening. On June 11, Governor Cuomo [announced](#) that the third phase of reopening would begin in several regions. On June 24, Governor Cuomo [announced](#) that the fourth phase of reopening would begin in several regions in the coming days.

In addition to the following standards, all professional sports must continue to comply with the guidance and directives for maintaining clean and safe work environments issued by DOH.

Please note that where guidance in this document differs from other guidance documents issued by New York State, the more recent guidance shall apply.

Standards for Responsible Professional Sports Activities in New York State

No professional sports activities can occur without meeting the following minimum State standards, as well as applicable federal requirements, including but not limited to such minimum standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and United States Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

The State standards contained within this guidance apply to all professional sports during the COVID-19 public health emergency until rescinded or amended by the State. In addition to these standards, professional sports teams must adhere to the return-to-play guidance or adopted recommendations from their respective league or regulating body. The owner or management of the professional sports team or

professional sporting venue where appropriate (in either case, "the Responsible Parties"), shall be responsible for meeting these standards.

Given that professional sports competitions involve a wide variety of individuals (e.g., athletes, coaches, trainers, regulators, timekeepers, judges, referees, media, medical personnel, venue personnel), this document will simply refer to "team staff, athletes, and venue personnel" for all individuals who may be necessary to stage and broadcast a competition.

This document is predicated on the tenet that no live audience, fans, or spectators will be authorized to attend a professional sport competition or training program at the time of publication. It is incumbent upon the Responsible Parties to have sufficient security to ensure only essential participants and personnel access the grounds and implement a security plan to disperse any individuals that gather outside of the venue.

The following guidance is organized around three distinct categories: people, places, and processes.

I. PEOPLE

A. Physical Distancing

- Responsible Parties must ensure that all team staff, athletes, and venue personnel practice physical distancing by maintaining at least six feet away from other individuals or groups of people, particularly while standing in lines, using elevators or escalators, or moving around the property, to the extent possible, and notwithstanding proximity or contact that may occur during competition or other core activities. Provided that certain functions at professional sports venues require being within six feet of other individuals, these functions shall be identified and a protocol for mitigation of risk for affected individuals shall be implemented.
- Responsible Parties must ensure that no audience, fans, or spectators are authorized to attend or permitted entrance to any professional sports venue, even if the competition is held at an outdoor location (e.g., baseball field).
- Responsible Parties must put in place protocols for team staff and athletes to limit the use of frequently shared spaces, such as locker rooms, restrooms, lounges, team benches, or similar spaces, to allow for proper social distancing when not on the field of play.
- Responsible Parties should ensure six feet of space between all lockers for team athletes to accommodate social distancing.
- Responsible Parties must limit the number of team staff and venue staff on site to only essential personnel required to successfully stage and broadcast competition while maintaining all applicable health and safety standards.
- Responsible Parties must limit the number of individuals allowed on or near the field of play to only athletes, essential team staff (e.g., coaches), and other essential personnel who Responsible Parties may deem necessary.
- Responsible Parties should consider establishing a tier system to control movement and access within the venue for all essential personnel (e.g., tier 1, 2, 3 individuals and associated rights of access within venue).

- Responsible Parties must ensure team staff and athletes on the sidelines are six feet or more apart to ensure appropriate social distancing at all times and minimize congregation of team staff and athletes on the sidelines. Teams may consider using ancillary seating (e.g., empty stands) to accomplish this distancing requirement.
- Responsible Parties should ensure appropriate social distancing during all team travel to and from the venue (e.g., team buses and planes), to the extent possible. All individuals should wear appropriate face coverings when in transit.
- Responsible Parties should establish a separate entrance for team staff and athletes to limit congregation with venue personnel and to facilitate on-site health screenings.
- Responsible Parties must ensure that only essential team staff and athletes are allowed in designated team areas (e.g., locker rooms, athlete lounges, training areas, athlete medical areas). Media personnel should be prohibited from entering such team areas.
- Responsible Parties must ensure that media interactions, including post-game interviews, always follow appropriate social distancing. Broadcast media personnel at the venue should always wear appropriate face coverings, including during in-person interviews where it does not interfere with the core activity.
- Responsible Parties should discourage any unnecessary physical contact that is not normally core to the professional sports activity.
- Responsible Parties should allow media personnel to be spaced out within the venue in order to limit congregation in small spaces (e.g., broadcast booths, media rooms).
- As mentioned above, Responsible Parties must prohibit fans from congregating outside the venue and must implement a security plan to disperse any individuals or groups that gathers outside the venue.
- To the extent possible, Responsible Parties shall arrange physical layouts for fixed workstations to ensure appropriate distancing between team and venue staff.
- To the extent possible, Responsible Parties should ensure that a distance of at least six feet is maintained among individuals at all times while they are not on the field of play or engaged in physical activities, unless safety or execution of the core activity requires a shorter distance (e.g. medical treatments for players). Any time individuals must come within six feet of another person, acceptable face coverings must be worn. Individuals must be prepared to don a face covering if another person unexpectedly comes within six feet.
 - Acceptable face coverings for COVID-19 include but are not limited to cloth-based face coverings and disposable masks that cover both the mouth and nose.
 - However, cloth, disposable, or other homemade face coverings are not acceptable face coverings for workplace activities that typically require a higher degree of protection for personal protective equipment (PPE) due to the nature of the work. For those activities, N95 respirators or other PPE used under existing industry standards should continue to be used, as is defined in accordance with [OSHA guidelines](#).

- Responsible Parties may modify the use and/or restrict the number of workstations and seating areas, so that employees are at least six feet apart in all directions (e.g., side-to-side and when facing one another) and are not sharing workstations without cleaning and disinfection between use. When distancing is not feasible between workstations, Responsible Parties may enact physical barriers, such as plastic shielding walls in areas where they would not affect air flow, heating, cooling, or ventilation, or present a health or safety risk.
 - If used, physical barriers should be put in place in accordance with [OSHA guidelines](#).
 - Physical barrier options may include: strip curtains, plexiglass or similar materials, or other impermeable dividers or partitions.
- Responsible Parties should prohibit the use of small spaces (e.g., elevators, equipment room, media rooms or vehicles, mechanical areas) by more than one individual at a time, unless all individuals in such space at the same time are wearing acceptable face coverings. However, even with face coverings in use, occupancy must never exceed 50% of the maximum capacity of the space, unless it is designed for use by a single occupant. Responsible Parties should increase ventilation with outdoor air to the greatest extent possible (e.g., opening windows and doors), while maintaining safety protocols. Responsible Parties should take additional measures to prevent congregation in elevator waiting areas and limit density in elevators, such as enabling the use of stairs.
- Responsible Parties are encouraged to assign maintenance staff pairs/small groups, to limit the number of close or proximate contacts, where possible.
- Responsible Parties should put in place measures to reduce bi-directional foot traffic using tape or signs with arrows in narrow aisles, hallways, or spaces, and post signage and distance markers denoting spaces of six feet in all commonly used areas and any areas in which lines are commonly formed or people may congregate (e.g. elevator entrances, escalators, lobbies, clock in/out stations, health screening stations).
- Responsible Parties must post signs throughout the venue, consistent with DOH COVID-19 signage. Responsible Parties can develop their own customized signage specific to their workplace or setting, provided that such signage is consistent with the Department’s signage. Signage should be used to remind team staff, athletes, and venue personnel to:
 - Cover their nose and mouth with a face covering, except for athletes when engaged in training, warming up, or competition, and broadcast media personnel when it interferes with the core activity.
 - Properly store and, when necessary, discard PPE.
 - Adhere to physical distancing instructions.
 - Report symptoms of or exposure to COVID-19, and how they should do so.
 - Follow hand hygiene and cleaning and disinfection guidelines.
 - Follow appropriate respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette.

B. Gatherings in Enclosed Spaces

- Responsible Parties must limit in-person gatherings (e.g., team meetings, coaching briefings) to the greatest extent possible and use other methods such as video or teleconferencing whenever possible, per CDC guidance “[Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers to Plan and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)”. When videoconferencing or teleconferencing is not possible, Responsible Parties should hold meetings in open, well-ventilated spaces and ensure that individuals

maintain six feet of social distance between one another (e.g., if there are chairs, leave space between chairs, have individuals sit in alternating chairs), notwithstanding practices or competitions.

- Responsible Parties should encourage social distancing by limiting occupancy or closing non-essential amenities and communal areas that do not allow for social distancing protocols. If open, Responsible Parties must make hand sanitizer or disinfecting wipes available next to equipment near such amenities (e.g. vending machines, communal coffee stations, club houses).
- Responsible Parties must put in place practices for adequate social distancing in small areas, such as restrooms and breakrooms, and should develop signage and systems (e.g. flagging when occupied) to restrict occupancy when social distancing cannot be maintained in such areas.
- Responsible Parties should stagger schedules for venue personnel to observe social distancing (i.e., six feet of space) for any gathering (e.g., coffee breaks, meals, and shift starts/stops).

C. Workplace Activity

- Where applicable, Responsible Parties must follow all applicable DOH guidance, such as:
 - "Interim Guidance for Office-Based Work during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency" for any activities taking place in offices.
 - "Interim Guidance for Professional Sports Training Facilities during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency" for any activities taking place in venue training facilities.
 - "Interim Guidance for Personal Care Services during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency" for any activities related to massage therapy, spas, or makeup, as applicable.
 - "Interim Guidance for Food Services during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency" for any activities related to food and beverage.
- Responsible Parties are strongly advised to keep maintenance of facilities to the minimum standard required to safely execute competitions (i.e., only allowing personnel to return who are essential to preparation of the field of play or facilities).
- Responsible Parties should consider closing concessions or food services where applicable, unless necessary to keep open for the purpose of providing food or beverages to essential personnel. If concessions or food service areas are open, adhere to the guidelines in DOH's "Interim Guidance for Food Services during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency."
- Responsible Parties must ensure that all team staff, athletes, and venue personnel receive training on COVID-19 safety, proper hand and respiratory hygiene, and cleaning and disinfection protocols.
- Responsible Parties must take measures to reduce interpersonal contact and congregation, through methods such as:
 - limiting in-person presence to only those staff who are necessary to stage and broadcast a competition;
 - adjusting workplace hours;
 - reducing on-site workforce to accommodate social distancing guidelines;
 - shifting design (e.g., A/B teams, staggered arrival/departure times for venue personnel);

- prioritizing tasks that allow for social distancing over those that do not; and/or
- avoiding multiple crews and/or teams working in one area by staggering scheduled tasks and using signs to indicate occupied areas (e.g., maintenance crews).

D. Movement and Commerce

- Responsible Parties must prohibit non-essential visitors from entering the facility, to the extent possible.
- Responsible Parties must establish designated areas for pickups and deliveries, limiting contact to the extent possible.
- For deliveries, Responsible Parties should implement a touchless delivery system whereby drivers stay in the cab of the vehicle while delivery takes place or, where not practicable, Responsible Parties must provide acceptable PPE appropriate to the anticipated activities that includes, at a minimum, a face covering to personnel involved in the delivery at no cost for the duration of the delivery process.
- Responsible Parties should limit on-site interactions (e.g., designate an egress(es) for venue personnel leaving their shifts and a separate ingress(es) for venue personnel starting their shifts) and movements (e.g., venue personnel should remain near their workstations as often as possible).
- Responsible Parties should limit the numbers of entrances in order to (1) manage the flow of traffic into the building and (2) facilitate health screenings while remaining in compliance with fire safety regulations.
 - Responsible Parties must develop a plan for people to maintain six feet of social distance while queuing inside or outside of the building for screening, as applicable.

II. PLACES

A. Protective Equipment

- Responsible Parties must ensure that all individuals wear appropriate face coverings when in the venue at all times, except for athletes when engaged in training, warming up, or competition and broadcast media personnel when it interferes with the core activity. Players must wear a face covering while on the sidelines and not actively engaged in play. However, players on the sideline recovering from previous play, preparing to substitute into the game, or assigned to a team unit preparing to enter or currently on the field of play are exempt from this requirement. Face coverings include a mask, neck gaiter, or face shield including a shield built into the helmet. Coaches must wear either a mask, neck gaiter, and/or face shield to satisfy this obligation.
- Responsible Parties should also encourage use of gloves and eye protection especially for support staff that regularly interact with athletes in close contact (e.g., athletic trainers, physicians, conditioning coaches, ball handlers, attendants, trainers, medical staff). If gloves are not worn, staff must perform hand hygiene before and after such interactions with athletes.
- In addition to any necessary PPE as required for certain workplace activities, Responsible Parties must procure, fashion, or otherwise obtain acceptable face coverings and provide such coverings to their employees, players, and team staff within the venue at no cost to the employee, player, or team staff. Responsible Parties should have an adequate supply of face coverings, masks and other

required PPE on hand should an employee, player, or team member need a replacement. For purposes of this obligation, Responsible Parties are responsible for satisfying this requirement as to their employees.

- Acceptable face coverings include, but are not limited to, cloth (e.g. homemade sewn, quick cut, bandana), surgical masks, N95 respirators, and face shields.
- Face coverings must be cleaned or replaced after use and may not be shared. Please consult the CDC [guidance](#) for additional information on cloth face coverings and other types of PPE, as well as instructions on use and cleaning.
 - Note that cloth, disposable, or other homemade face coverings are not acceptable face coverings for workplace activities that typically require a higher degree of protection for PPE due to the nature of the work. Responsible Parties must adhere to [OSHA guidelines](#) for such safety equipment.
- Responsible Parties must allow employees, players, and team staff to use their own acceptable face coverings but cannot require such individuals to supply their own face coverings. Further, this guidance shall not prevent such individuals from wearing their personally owned additional protective coverings (e.g. surgical masks, N95 respirators, or face shields), or if the Responsible Parties otherwise requires employees to wear more protective PPE due to the nature of their work. Employers should comply with all applicable OSHA guidelines.
- Responsible Parties must put in place measures to limit the sharing of objects, such as equipment, materials, and vehicles, as well as the touching of shared surfaces, such as touchscreens, as safety allows; or, must require employees, athletes, and team staff to wear gloves (trade-appropriate or medical) when in contact with shared objects or frequently touched surfaces if practicable; or, must require employees, athletes, and team staff to perform hand hygiene before and after contact.
- Responsible Parties must train employees on how to adequately put on, take off, clean (as applicable), and discard PPE, including but not limited to, appropriate face coverings.

B. Hygiene, Cleaning, and Disinfection

- Responsible Parties must ensure adherence to hygiene and cleaning and disinfection requirements as advised by the CDC and DOH, including "[Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfection of Public and Private Facilities for COVID-19](#)," and the "[STOP THE SPREAD](#)" poster, as applicable. Responsible Parties must maintain logs that include the date, time, and scope of cleaning and disinfection.
- Responsible Parties must provide and maintain hand hygiene stations on site, as follows:
 - For handwashing: soap, running warm water, and disposable paper towels.
 - For hand sanitizer: an alcohol-based hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol for areas where handwashing facilities may not be available or practical.
 - Responsible Parties shall make hand sanitizer available throughout common areas in the building (e.g., lobbies). It should be placed in convenient locations, such as at entrances, exits, elevators, and security/reception desks. Touch-free hand sanitizer dispensers should be installed where possible.
 - Responsible Parties should place signage near hand sanitizer stations indicating that visibly soiled hands should be washed with soap and water; hand sanitizer is not effective on visibly soiled hands

- Responsible Parties should place receptacles around the venue for disposal of soiled items, including PPE.
- Responsible Parties must provide appropriate cleaning and disinfection supplies for shared and frequently touched surfaces and encourage team and venue personnel to use these supplies, following manufacturers' instructions, before and after use of these environmental surfaces, followed by hand hygiene.
- Responsible Parties must conduct regular cleaning and disinfection of the venue and more frequent cleaning and disinfection for high risk areas used by many individuals and for frequently touched surfaces such as railings. Cleaning and disinfection must be rigorous and ongoing and should occur at least after each shift/training/practice, daily, or more frequently as needed. Please refer to DOH's "[Interim Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfection of Public and Private Facilities for COVID-19](#)" for detailed instructions on how to clean and disinfect facilities.
 - Responsible Parties must ensure regular cleaning and disinfection of restrooms. Restrooms should be cleaned and disinfected more often depending on frequency of use.
 - Responsible Parties must ensure distancing rules are adhered to by using signage, occupied markers, or other methods to reduce restroom capacity where feasible
 - Responsible Parties must ensure that all athlete areas are appropriately and effectively cleaned and disinfected after the end of each practice and competition.
 - Responsible Parties should ensure that equipment and tools are regularly disinfected using registered disinfectants. Refer to the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) [list of products](#) registered in New York State and identified by the EPA as effective against COVID-19.
 - If cleaning or disinfection products or the act of cleaning and disinfection causes safety hazards or degrades the material or machinery, Responsible Parties must put in place hand hygiene stations between use and/or supply disposable gloves and/or limitations on the number of individuals using such objects.
 - Responsible Parties must provide for the cleaning and disinfection of exposed areas in the event of a positive case of COVID-19, with such cleaning and disinfection to include, at a minimum, all heavy transit areas and high-touch surfaces (e.g., mechanic equipment, sporting equipment, shared surfaces, vehicles, handles and doorknobs).
- CDC guidelines on "[Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility](#)" if someone is suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 infection are as follows:
 - Close off areas used by the person suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19.
 - Responsible Parties do not necessarily need to close operations, if they can close off the affected areas.
 - Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the area.
 - Wait 24 hours before you clean and disinfect. If 24 hours is not feasible, wait as long as possible.
 - Clean and disinfect all areas used by the person suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19, such as offices, bathrooms, common areas, and shared equipment.
 - Once the area has been appropriately cleaned and disinfected, it can be reopened for use.
 - Team or venue personnel without close or proximate contact with the person suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 can return to the work area immediately after cleaning and disinfection.

- Refer to DOH’s “[Interim Guidance for Public and Private Employees Returning to Work Following COVID-19 Infection or Exposure](#)” for information on “close or proximate” contacts.
 - If more than seven days have passed since the person who is suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 visited or used the facility, additional cleaning and disinfection is not necessary, but routine cleaning and disinfection should continue.
- Responsible Parties must prohibit shared food and beverages (e.g., self-serve meals and beverages) and reserve adequate space for team and venue personnel to observe social distancing while eating meals.
- Responsible Parties should ensure that all food and beverages are not shared between individuals.
- Responsible Parties must ensure that all saunas, hot tubs, cryotherapy chambers or similar enclosed spaces remain closed to all athletes and personnel.
- Responsible Parties must clean and disinfect any medical areas including tables and surfaces between each use or exam.
- Responsible Parties must prohibit sharing of any personal items (e.g., water bottles, equipment, towels, toiletries, clothing, supplements) among team staff and athletes.
- Responsible Parties should prohibit any spitting within the venue at any time and any products that require spitting (e.g., smokeless tobacco, sunflower seeds).
- Responsible Parties must regularly clean and disinfect sporting equipment that is handled by multiple athletes throughout the competition (e.g., soccer balls, baseballs, tennis balls, basketballs, baseball bats).
- Responsible Parties should encourage athletes to shower at their hotel or residence following a competition rather than at the locker room provided at the venue.
- Responsible Parties should collect and launder linens (e.g., towels, uniforms, clothing) on site if possible and should encourage athletes to deposit used linens in designated bins without handling by other individuals such as equipment managers or attendants.
- Responsible Parties must ensure that athletes perform hand hygiene before and after inserting or removing mouthguards.
- Responsible Parties should assign cleaning staff to certain areas of the venue (e.g., locker rooms) in order to limit cross contamination throughout the facility.
- Responsible Parties should remove any unnecessary communal fixtures from the venue, such as newspaper or magazine stands in favor of individual distribution upon request.

C. Phased Reopening

- Responsible Parties are encouraged to phase-in reopening activities so as to allow for operational issues to be resolved before production or work activities return to normal levels. Responsible Parties should consider limiting the number of team staff, athletes, venue personnel, and hours, available to be served when first reopening so as to provide operations with the ability to adjust to the changes.

D. Communications Plan

- Responsible Parties must affirm that they have reviewed and understand the state-issued industry guidelines, and that they will implement them.
- Responsible Parties should develop a communications plan for all team staff, athletes, and venue personnel that includes applicable instructions, training, signage, and a consistent means to provide personnel with information. Responsible Parties may consider developing webpages, text and email groups, and social media.
- Responsible Parties should encourage individuals to adhere to CDC and DOH guidance regarding the use of PPE, specifically face coverings, through verbal communication and signage.
- Responsible Parties should post signage inside and outside of the venue to remind individuals to adhere to proper hygiene, social distancing rules, appropriate use of PPE, and cleaning and disinfection protocols.

III. PROCESSES

A. Screening and Testing

- Responsible Parties must implement diagnostic testing for COVID-19 for all athletes and essential team staff with regular player access 48 hours before a competition, where feasible, given lab operating hours and turnaround time, regardless of antibody test results or history of infection.
- Responsible Parties must implement mandatory daily health screening practices for team staff, athletes, and venue personnel prior to any engagement in professional sports activities, as well as for vendors, where practicable. Screening practices may be performed remotely (e.g., by telephone or electronic survey), before entrance to the venue, to the extent possible; or may be performed on site.
- Screening should be coordinated to prevent individuals from intermingling in close or proximate contact with each other prior to completion of the screening.
- Screening should be required of each individual seeking access to the venue; screening should be completed using a questionnaire that determines whether the individual has:
 - (a) knowingly been in close or proximate contact in the past 14 days with anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 or who has or had symptoms of COVID-19;
 - (b) tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 14 days; and/or
 - (c) has experienced any symptoms of COVID-19 in the past 14 days.
- Refer to CDC guidance on "[Symptoms of Coronavirus](#)" for the most up to date information on symptoms associated with COVID-19.
- Responsible Parties should coordinate with all necessary team and venue personnel to facilitate screening. Screening best practices include:
 - If space and facility configuration allow, screen individuals at or near the building entrance to minimize the impact in case of a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19.
 - Allow for adequate social distancing while individuals queue for screening and/or building entry.
 - Coordinate to identify individuals who have completed a remote screening.
 - Admit only individuals who have been screened either remotely or upon arrival.

- Use contactless thermal cameras in building entrances to identify potentially symptomatic individuals and direct them to a secondary screening area to complete a follow-on screening.
- Responsible Parties must require team staff, athletes, and venue personnel to immediately disclose if and when their responses to any of the aforementioned questions changes, such as if they begin to experience symptoms.
- Responsible Parties should implement pre-travel screening questionnaires for any teams traveling domestically or internationally. International travel must comply with all federal, state, and local guidelines including quarantine of travelers upon their return as necessary.
- In addition to the screening questionnaire, temperature checks may also be conducted per U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission or DOH guidelines. Responsible Parties are prohibited from keeping records of employee health data (e.g. the specific temperature data of an individual) but are permitted to maintain records that confirm individuals were screened and the result of such screening (e.g. pass/fail, cleared/not cleared), unless expressly given permission to do so by the individual.
- Responsible Parties must ensure that any personnel performing screening activities, including temperature checks, are appropriately protected from exposure to potentially infectious individuals entering the facility. Personnel performing screening activities should be trained by employer-identified individuals who are familiar with CDC, DOH, and OSHA protocols.
- Screeners must be provided and use PPE, including at a minimum, a face mask, and may include gloves, a gown, and/or a face shield.
- Any team staff member, athlete, or venue personnel who screens positive for COVID-19 symptoms must not be allowed to enter the venue and must be sent home or to a designated accommodation with instructions to contact their healthcare provider for assessment and testing.
 - Responsible Parties should provide the individual with information on healthcare and testing resources.
 - Responsible Parties must immediately notify the state and local health department about the case if test results are positive for COVID-19.
- Responsible Parties should refer to DOH's "Interim Guidance for Public and Private Employees Returning to Work Following COVID-19 Infection or Exposure" regarding protocols and policies for employees seeking to return to work after a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 or after the employee had close or proximate contact with a person with COVID-19.
- Responsible Parties must designate a central point of contact, which may vary by activity, location, shift or day, responsible for receiving and attesting to having reviewed all team staff, athlete, and venue personnel questionnaires, with such contact also identified as the party for team staff, athletes, or venue personnel to inform if they later are experiencing COVID-19-related symptoms, as noted on the questionnaire.
- Responsible Parties must designate a site safety monitor whose responsibilities include continuous compliance with all aspects of the site safety plan, for all individuals.
 - When notified of a positive case, the site safety monitor must notify the contacts of all impacted entities occupying shared spaces of the positive cases and the respective cleaning and disinfection procedures taken.
 - The site safety monitor is responsible for receiving and attesting to having reviewed all team staff, athlete, and venue personnel questionnaires on a daily basis, with such contact also identified as the party for employees, to inform if they later are experiencing COVID-19-related symptoms, as noted on the questionnaire.
- To the extent possible, Responsible Parties should maintain a log of every person, including team staff, athletes, and venue personnel who may have close or proximate contact with other individuals at the

facility or work area; excluding deliveries that are performed with appropriate PPE or through contactless means. The log should contain contact information, such that all contacts may be identified, traced and notified in the event an individual is diagnosed with COVID-19. Responsible Parties must cooperate with state and local health department contact tracing efforts.

B. Tracing and Tracking

- Responsible Parties must notify the state and local health department immediately upon being informed of any positive COVID-19 test result by any personnel at the site.
- In the case of any team staff, athlete, or venue personnel testing positive, the Responsible Parties must cooperate with the state and local health department to trace all contacts in the venue during the competition or appropriate team staff and notify the state and local health department of all individuals (as applicable) who entered the venue dating back to 48 hours before the person(s) began experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or tested positive, whichever is earlier, but maintain confidentiality as required by federal and state law and regulations. Neither competitions nor practices may proceed until contact tracing is completed and isolation of infected persons and quarantine of exposed persons are implemented by the state and local health departments as appropriate.
- State and local health departments will implement monitoring and movement restrictions of infected or exposed persons including isolation or quarantine.
- Individuals who are alerted that they have come into close or proximate contact with a person with COVID-19, and have been alerted via tracing, tracking or other mechanism, are required to self-report to their employer at the time of alert and shall follow the protocol referenced above.

IV. EMPLOYER PLANS

Responsible Parties must conspicuously post completed safety plans on site for team staff, athletes, and venue personnel. The State has made available a business reopening safety plan template to guide business owners and operators in developing plans to protect against the spread of COVID-19.

Additional safety information, guidelines, and resources are available at:

New York State Department of Health Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Website
<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Coronavirus (COVID-19) Website
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Occupational Safety and Health Administration COVID-19 Website
<https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/>

At the link below, affirm that you have read and understand your obligation to operate in accordance with this guidance:

<https://forms.ny.gov/s3/ny-forward-affirmation>