

COVID-19 Contact, Contraction, Tracing, etc.

What do I do if a player notifies our organization that they are considered a close contact of a person who has tested positive for COVID-19?

The player is considered the secondary contact in this case; they will need to self-quarantine for 14 days from the date of last contact. If the player is not exhibiting symptoms or they have tested negative they will need to remain out of soccer activities for 14 days from the date of last contact with the person who tested positive. Symptoms can develop at any time during the 14-day period.

The remainder of the team can continue activities as normal. If at any time the player in question develops COVID-19, they will need to notify the organization immediately. At that time the COVID Notification procedures found on the guidelines page of the MA Youth Soccer Website should be followed.

What if the player or a family member exhibits signs or symptoms of COVID-19 or tests positive?

All parents/guardians need to report if the athlete or any household contact is exhibiting any signs or symptoms of COVID-19 or tests positive for SARS-CoV-2, even if asymptomatic. These individuals should be held out of ALL practices and games until the CDC-recommended isolation or quarantine period has expired. If the test result for SARS-CoV-2 is positive, team officials and the health department should be notified so contact tracing and appropriate quarantining can be performed. The local health department can assist in determining when it is safe for athletes and exposed contacts to return to practice, and guidelines from the CDC should be followed to determine clearance.

Our program is located in a city/town designated by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as a Red Zone, will that impact our program?

Any impact this has on a town or club program would come locally (i.e. Board of Health) and not from Mass Youth Soccer. We treat all member organizations the same, without any judgment based on the status level of the town/city they reside in.

If a parent does not feel comfortable having their child participate in a program located in a “red zone” town/city they have the choice to opt out. The same goes for a traveling team scheduled to play a game in a “red zone” town/city, the parent can have their child opt out.

PPE

Are face coverings required? What types of face coverings are acceptable for players and spectators when at any soccer related activities?

A face covering will be required per the most recent EEA guidelines while actively playing and while on the sidelines. A face covering must be worn during arrival and departure from the field. Only a face covering that loops around a player's ears will be considered acceptable for players when participating in soccer activities.

Per the most recent EEA guidelines spectators are required to have a face covering on at all times while attending soccer activities.

Masks with exhalation valves or vents (including mesh masks) are not acceptable for players and spectators and should NOT be worn. This is to help prevent the person wearing the mask from spreading COVID-19 to others (source control).

Can a spectator sitting outside the designated spectator area watch a game or practice without a mask?

The permit holder for the field should contact the field owner (municipality/town/city/school dept./parks & rec) and have them clearly define the area by which they have the permit for. When contacting the facility owner you should explain the reason for asking while providing copies of the EEA and Mass Youth Soccer Guidelines. The facility owner will provide the answer to this question.

Equipment

Our team rotates Goalkeepers can we share GK gloves? If not, can players play without them?

In an effort to control the spread, sharing of equipment is not allowed at this time. If a player believes they will play in goal we recommend they have their own pair of gloves. Even with gloves players should be cautioned not to touch their face at any time during play. When removing gloves the player's hands should be washed with soap and water or hand sanitizer should be used immediately. Gloves should be sanitized immediately after removal.

At times we do understand a player will be playing goal and not have gloves. Hand sanitizer should be kept in the net and the keeper should sanitize their hand after each contact with the ball. The player should be strongly cautioned not to touch their face with their hands at any time during the game.

Administration

Is it necessary to take attendance at all activities? Does this include spectators?

For all outdoor soccer activities Massachusetts Youth Soccer *requires* attendance logs be kept for all players, coaches, referees and other onsite administrators. In addition, all efforts should be made to keep an attendance log of all spectators at each soccer related event.

Spectators

Are individuals with disabilities able to have an additional adult to assist and spectate?

Yes, to accommodate disabled people, another adult may be with this person as a spectator. Both must be seated together and following all other guidelines.

Are siblings allowed to spectate?

Spectators are permitted to have children with them if not other daycare coverage is possible.

Does a family have to social distance?

The current limit on spectators is one per player. Families should not be attending soccer events other than by noted exemptions. Social distancing is not necessary by family members living under the same roof. Otherwise, social distancing is required.