

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 in accordance to the latest CDC guidelines. 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.

I have been identified as a close contact, but have had multiple negative COVID-19 tests, can I return to play before the fourteen (14) days?

No, if you have been identified as a person who has had close contact with a person who is positive for COVID-19, you should stay home for 14 days after your last contact with a person. Even if you test negative for COVID-19 or feel healthy, you should stay home (quarantine) since symptoms may appear 2 to 14 days after exposure to the virus.

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 players 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

Will a family be require to social distance on the sidelines?

Currently spectators are limited to 2 adults (parents/guardians or chaperones) and siblings of a participating player. This will be considered a family unit and they will not be

required to social distance. They should remain as close together and be socially distanced (6') from the next spectator.

Travel Policy

Are MA based Towns and Club allowed to have out-of-state players on teams at this time?

Yes they are, *but with restrictions*. Below is from the Comm. of MA on this subject with the section regarding this question in yellow highlight.

The Commonwealth's Travel Order (COVID-19 Order No. 45) governs travel to or from Massachusetts for all teams, athletes, and coaches. Any Massachusetts based athlete or coach who chooses to leave Massachusetts to participate in a Sport Event must comply with the Commonwealth's Travel Order (COVID-19 Order No. 45) upon returning to Massachusetts and before returning to sports activity, work, school or attending public events, and Massachusetts based teams must ensure that all team members and coaches comply with the Travel Order. Players and coaches coming to Massachusetts for athletics or any other reason are subject to the requirements of the Travel Order. Students who reside outside of Massachusetts but attend school within Massachusetts are exempt from the Commonwealth's Travel Order when commuting to Massachusetts for school and are therefore permitted to participate in school affiliated athletics, but the exemption is limited to students participating in school affiliated athletics. Any Massachusetts-based athlete that travels to another state and does not comply with the Travel Order and any Massachusetts based team that does not ensure compliance with the Travel Order by all of its members may risk suspension of team or league practices and/or games.

The current [Comm. of MA Travel policy](#) states that the out-of-state players would need to comply with the following:

All visitors entering Massachusetts, including returning residents, who do not meet an exemption, are required to:

- Complete the [Massachusetts Travel Form](#) prior to arrival
- Quarantine for 10 days or produce a negative COVID-19 test result that has been administered up to 72-hours prior to your arrival in Massachusetts. If not obtained before entry to Massachusetts, a test may be obtained after arrival. However, all such arriving travelers must immediately begin the 10-day quarantine until a negative test result has been received. Failure to comply may result in a \$500 fine per day.

Can out-of -State Teams play in MA?

The Commonwealth of MA EEA policy still stands that out of state teams may not come into MA to play sports.

Do I have to follow the Travel Order if I have received a COVID-19 vaccine?

Persons Who Have Been Completely Vaccinated for COVID-19: Individuals who have received two doses of either the Moderna or Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines OR who have received a single dose of the Janssen vaccine, more than 14 days ago and who do not have symptoms, do not need to obtain a negative test prior to traveling to, or quarantine upon arrival to, Massachusetts. COVID-19 vaccinated individuals arriving in Massachusetts must have documentation of their vaccination(s), including the date(s) of administration, available if asked. This exception does not include COVID-19-recovered individuals who have symptoms of COVID-19, who must follow all testing and quarantine guidance outlined in the travel rules.