



Michigan State Youth Soccer Association

U-M School of Public Health (COVID) FAQs

These are your questions answered by the School of Public Health. If you have any additional questions, please submit those questions to stateoffice@michiganyouthsoccer.org and reference U-M.

Updated November 11, 2020 – subject to change

- a) **Symptomatic:** when a person with a COVID-19 infection shows signs of their illness, such as cough, fever, headache, fatigue, etc.
- b) **Asymptomatic:** when a person with a COVID-19 infection does not show any signs of their illness.
- c) **Social Distancing:** putting physical distance between yourself and other people. This means avoiding groups of people (parties, crowds on sidewalks, lines in a store, etc.) and maintaining distance (approximately 6 feet) from others when possible.
- d) **Quarantine:** separating individuals who have had close contact with someone with COVID-19 to determine whether they develop symptoms or test positive for the disease. Quarantine for COVID-19 should last for a period of 14 days after the last known close contact with the infected person. Typically quarantining requires individuals to remain in their homes in accordance with their local health department until it has been deemed appropriate for them to leave their quarantine.
- e) **Isolation:** separating people who are ill (either showing symptoms after being exposed to a COVID-19 case or having a positive COVID-19 test result) from others who are not ill to keep the disease from spreading. Isolating requires individuals to completely separate themselves from all others (including household members) by remaining in their homes away from others (preferably with their own room, bathroom, and other necessities) until their local health department deems it appropriate to be released from their isolation (at least 10 days since symptom onset, resolution of fever, and at least 24 hours of improvement of symptoms).
- f) **Close Contact:** any individual who is within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from 2 days before the infected person began showing symptoms of their COVID-19 infection (or, for asymptomatic persons, 2 days prior to their positive COVID-19 test date) until the time the case is isolated.
- g) **Direct Contact:** Being exposed to infectious secretions of a COVID-19 case without the use of proper PPE (procedural Mask, N95 mask with face shield, gown, gloves, etc.). This and close contact are both ways that individuals may be exposed to COVID-19.
- h) **COVID-19 Case:** A person who tests positive for a current COVID-19 infection (asymptomatic or symptomatic).



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- i) **COVID-19 Point of Contact:** the individual that a club designates as their person to handle COVID-19 related issues of their club. These individuals are responsible for enforcing club and MSYSA COVID-19 policies and being the lead person for any COVID-19 club concerns.
- j) **The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA):** a federal law that required the creation of national standards to protect sensitive patient health information from being disclosed by **healthcare/health insurance** companies without the patient's consent or knowledge.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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Training/Activities

- 1) Are players allowed to throw the ball in during training?
[Yes. Throws-ins are allowed at this point. Balls must be cleaned and sanitized before and after each activity.](#)
- 2) When can players 'head' the ball during training?
[At this point, headers are permitted but should not take place for U11 and below. Balls must be cleaned and sanitized before and after each activity.](#)
- 3) Can clubs conduct small group scrimmages during practices?
[Yes. See RTP Chart. Also, per MDHHS Emergency Order Under MCL.333.2253 – Gatherings and Face Mask Order, all athletes must wear a facial covering \(except the sport of swimming\). MSYSA is allowing scrimmages during practice so long as all other COVID RTP guidelines are being met.](#)
- 4) What specific questions should coaches ask players during 'screening' of players before training?
[The following screening questions should be administered to players before training sessions:](#)
 - 1) [Have you had close contact \(within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes\) in the last 14 days with someone diagnosed with COVID-19 or COVID-19-like symptoms, or has any health department or health care provider been in contact with you and advised you to quarantine?](#)

If Yes -> The player/coach should not participate. The individual can return 14 days after the last time they had close contact with someone with COVID-19, or as listed below.

If No -> The player/coach can participate if they are not experiencing symptoms.



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2) Have you had any one or more of these symptoms today or within the past 24 hours, which is new or not explained by another reason? Since you last played, have you had any of these symptoms?

- Fever or chills
- Chills
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- New cough
- New loss of taste or smell
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

If a player has any of these symptoms, they should go home, stay away from other people, and have a parent/guardian call their healthcare provider.

3) Over the past 10 days, have you had a positive COVID-19 test for active virus? Since you last played, have you been diagnosed with COVID-19?

- Yes
- No

If a player/coach is diagnosed with COVID-19 based on a test or their symptoms, or does not get a COVID-19 test but has had symptoms, they should not play, stay at home, and contact their health care provider.

5) If a young player cannot answer the health screening questions before training, what should be done? Should the health screening questions be asked to the parents/guardians?

Yes. Ask the parents/guardians the screening questions. Have parents/guardians and the player remain physically distanced from the coach while answering screening questions. For example, this could be performed while the family is still in the car upon arrival to training.

6) Temperature Checks – Should coaches perform player temp checks at the field as well?

It is not necessary. All participants should conduct a daily temperature check before arriving to the field. Players may attend soccer related activities if their measured temperature is below 100.4°F.



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- 7) Some fields are only open with MHSAA sports rules. One of these rules requires coaches to take temperatures upon entry to training. Can coaches (masked and gloved) take temperatures (with non-touch thermometers) on those fields requiring it for MHSAA?

It is MSYSA's position that all participants should conduct a daily temperature check for a fever of below 100.4°F at home before training. If a field requires it because of MHSAA requirements, coaches may take a player's temperature given that they are masked and gloved, players are masked, and non-touch thermometers are used.

- 8) Scenario: *We were trying to get clarification for the 100 person rule (small gatherings). A particular location has almost 30 fields at one location. If we have a coach (masked) for 25 kids, with social distancing and the 25 kids are put into small groups with social distancing, is this OK?*

Yes, having one coach for 25 kids with proper physical distancing would be appropriate for training. If multiple fields are being used simultaneously, clubs should spread out as much as possible by using non-adjacent fields when possible.

- 9) What temperature does MSYSA consider as "having a fever"? Does it depend on the normal body temperature of the individual being tested?

Any individual with a measured body temperature of at least 100.4°F, or 38°C, is considered to have a fever. This temperature is used in standard medical decision-making.

- 10) Can clubs start running soccer camps now?

Yes, as long as all participants travel to and from training grounds each day. Camps must adhere to all other MSYSA COVID-19 guidelines, including proper physical distancing, equipment management, play restrictions, hygiene, as well as state and local regulations on large gatherings.

- 11) Is the potential contact between players in youth soccer games comparable to the contact between the players in football? The amount of time others say is necessary for transmission is 15 min (close contact), given this why can we not play contact games?

According to the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS), soccer is considered a moderate risk sport and football is considered a high-risk sport for transmission of COVID-19.

A player can be exposed to COVID-19 while not being a "close contact", such as by direct contact. For example; a player may unintentionally spit, breath heavily, or otherwise expose another player through direct contact while playing soccer. Thus, a player could be exposed even though their exposure was less than the 15-minute time period to be considered a close contact.



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- 12) Has there been any consideration of loosening the spacing requirements on the much younger players during training or youth development programs? Some suggest that the radius of potential spread with younger players is closer to 2 feet as opposed to 6 feet because their lungs are not developed enough to project at the velocity and distance of more developed adolescents

Collectively we are still learning more about transmission methods and rates of COVID-19, and much is still unknown. To the extent possible, players should remain 6 feet apart to reduce the transmission of COVID-19. This guidance is from the CDC, *MI Safe Start*, and US Soccer guidelines and is currently not based on player age.

- 13) I had a question regarding the age of the kids in soccer that can or more importantly cannot grasp the “Social Distancing or Special Procedures” required to run a soccer program during COVID. Is it advisable to try to run a youth soccer program this Fall knowing that a 3, 4, 5 or 6 year old may not comprehend or even be able to behave in a manner that is needed to meet the required health protocols?

Soccer activities should only be performed if organizers, players, parents, and all other participants are capable and willing to adhere to MSYSA, local, state, and federal COVID-19 guidelines, including proper physical distancing, hand hygiene, face coverings, etc. If these guidelines cannot be adequately met by all participants, organizers should consider postponing their programs until they are able to meet these COVID-19 guidelines.

Equipment Management

- 14) Are clubs allowed to distribute training bibs/pennies to players/coaches for training purposes? If so, what protocols should be followed in order to keep all participants safe?

Yes, clubs are allowed to distribute training bibs/pennies to participants. A healthy coach may lay out clean bibs/pennies for each player, making sure to maintain physical distancing. That player may then keep that bib/pennie for the remainder of the season, making sure to wash it after every practice session and prior to returning to the coach.

- 15) What type of disinfectant should we use to clean soccer balls and other equipment?

A full list of EPA-approved disinfectants for preventing the spread of COVID-19 can be found [here](#).

- 16) Is Lysol spray an acceptable disinfectant for shared equipment such as soccer balls, goals, etc.?

Many Lysol products have been approved by the EPA to prevent the spread of COVID-19. You can find a link to all Lysol products that have been approved by the EPA [here](#).



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17) How does MSYSA define 'facial coverings'?

MSYSA defines 'facial covering' as: a clean cloth, fabric, or other soft or permeable material, without holes, that **covers both the mouth and nose**, including, but not limited to surgical masks, handmade or homemade. Athletes should utilize a facial covering size that comfortably covers both the mouth and nose. Athletes are encouraged to bring more than one facial covering to trainings, practices and games in the event the facial covering is damaged, falls off, gets wet, or is bloodied in any way. **Note: The use of plastic 'face shields' is not permissible as a substitute for facial coverings.**

Risk Mitigation

18) Do athletes have to wear facial coverings during training/competition?

Yes. Athletes training for, practicing for, or competing in an organized sport must wear a facial covering at all times.

19) Do coaches have to wear facial coverings during training?

Yes. All participants, including coaches, are required to wear facial coverings at all times during sporting events, including training.

20) What is the protocol if someone contracts COVID; who specifically should clubs contact?

Each club should designate a COVID-19 Point of Contact: Designate a program staff person to respond to COVID-19 concerns, such as a coach or other staff member. All coaches, staff, officials, and families should know who this person is and how to contact them.

Parents should notify the coach and the Point of Contact if their child has a documented case of COVID-19, becomes sick with COVID-19 symptoms, or has been exposed to someone with COVID-19 symptoms or a confirmed or suspected case.

If there is a positive case, the local health department should also be contacted by the Point of Contact for further direction. The local health department will likely look to initiate contact tracing for individuals who may have been in close contact with the positive case (within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes from two days before he/she first showed symptoms to the time when he/she was last in contact). All team training and activities should be postponed until the local health department can make a final determination of individuals who need to quarantine due to being close contacts with the positive case. Close contacts should be quarantined at home for 14 days after last contact with the positive case and should not return to soccer activities during that time. Local health officials may identify other contacts who should quarantine.

Coaches, players, parents, officials, or anyone else in attendance should be notified of the presence of a positive COVID-19 case so that they can monitor themselves for any symptoms. However, **the individual with COVID-19 should not be identified by name to non-family or non-health department officials.**



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Areas that were used by the sick person should be closed off and should not be used until they have been properly cleaned and disinfected. Ideally at least 24 hours should pass before the area can be cleaned.

The Point of Contact, parents/guardians, players, and other club members should be prepared to answer questions from their local health department regarding a positive COVID-19 test.

- 21) Scenario: *A club has a player that had a relatively high temp during practice yesterday. Coach was made aware, and the club shut the team down for 14 days starting the last time the players were together.*

Assuming that the player has no temp today is the club alright to resume team activity?

Any player exhibiting symptoms or feeling sick should remain away from all team activities and contact their health care provider. However, MSYSA does not require clubs to cancel activities unless there is a confirmed COVID-19 case. If the participant tested positive in this scenario, all other exposed participants should quarantine at home for 14 days from last contact. The COVID-19 Point of Contact should contact their local health department for more direction.

- 22) What should be done if a player was exposed to someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19, such as a parent, sibling, coach, etc.?

Any participant who is in close contact (within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes from two days before he/she first showed symptoms to the time when he/she was last in contact) to an individual with a confirmed COVID-19 case should remain quarantined in their home for at least 14 days since their last known exposure to that individual. If the exposed individual begins feeling sick or exhibiting symptoms consistent with COVID-19, they should speak with their healthcare provider and are urged to get a COVID-19 test. Participants must be symptom-free and be removed from quarantine in order to return to training. Any individual exposed to a confirmed COVID-19 case should be prepared to answer questions from their local health department and follow all guidelines set by them. Teams may consider requiring clearance from local health departments or primary care providers prior to participant returning to practice.

- 23) If a participant has been recently exposed to an individual with a confirmed COVID-19 infection, may the participant rejoin activities after showing a negative COVID-19 test result?

Individuals exposed to a confirmed COVID-19 infection should not return to any activities for at least 14 days since the last known exposure to the confirmed COVID-19 case, regardless of a negative test result. After an exposure to a confirmed case, it may take a number of days or even longer than a week before an individual starts to show symptoms or begin to feel sick. Many COVID-19 tests taken immediately after exposure falsely show negative test results, so a full quarantine is required even with a negative test result.

- 24) What precautions must players take when coming back in-state in order to return to play?

When returning from out of state travel, all participants must monitor their symptoms and avoid participation if feeling sick or if they have a laboratory confirmed case of COVID-19. If any individual is exhibiting symptoms consistent with COVID-19 or is feeling sick, they should not return to practice and should contact their health care provider.



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- 25) Does MSYSA recommend athletes participate in another sport at the same time they are participating in MSYSA during the COVID-19 pandemic?
Participating in multiple sports is acceptable so long as athletes follow all public health guidelines for their respective teams. It is important to understand that being exposed to many different groups of people may increase someone's risk of developing or spreading COVID-19, but proper steps can be taken to minimize these risks.
- 26) What should an individual do if they are a secondary contact for a COVID-19 case? For example, does an individual have to quarantine if they are in close contact with someone else who is quarantining (not a case) due to a COVID-19 exposure?
Currently the CDC only recommends that individuals who have been in close or direct contact with a COVID-19 case should quarantine. This does not include secondary contacts; individuals who are in close contact with an individual who was in close contact with a COVID-19 case (hence secondary contact) do not need to quarantine unless their contact becomes a COVID-19 case. Then they should quarantine for 14 days since their last known close contact with that individual.

Return to Games/Competition

- 27) When can clubs begin team scrimmages?
At this point, intra-team scrimmages are now permissible. Per MDHHS Emergency Order Under MCL.333.2253 – Gatherings and Face Mask Order, all athletes must wear a facial covering (except the sport of swimming). MSYSA is allowing scrimmages during practice so long as all other COVID RTP guidelines are being met.
- 28) When can clubs begin participating in in-state matches?
MSYSA is permitting to games to commence no earlier than September 19, 2020. Affiliated clubs and leagues must strictly adhere to the RTP guidelines and safety protocols.
- 29) How much time do clubs need in between games? Can one team be warming up while a game finishes or do we need to have the teams completely leave the facility before the next team arrives?
There should be as little overlap as possible between games on the same field. This means that the game schedule should be timed so that teams who play first have adequate time to sanitize and completely leave the area before the next scheduled teams arrive and start warming up.
- 30) If we provide benches would they need to be wiped down between games? What about goals that may be touched during corners, freekicks, etc.?
MSYSA recommends that facilities and teams NOT provide nor use team benches. If team benches are used, players must still maintain 6 feet of physical distance. If team benches are used, the home team/club is responsible for sanitizing the team benches before and after every game. Goals and any other shared equipment should also be sanitized before and after each game.



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- 31) Will spectators be allowed at MSYSA games? If so, do they need to stay 6 feet apart?

Spectators will be allowed, but limited. Attendance restrictions for both indoor and outdoor sports competitions in Michigan are outlined in MDHHS Emergency Order Under MCL.333.2253 – Gatherings and Face Mask Order. Check with local health ordinances to see if further gathering sizes restrictions affect your area of play. All spectators must practice physical distancing, remaining 6 feet apart from others at all times. Facial coverings are required for all spectators while at games. Spectators may only sit in areas designated for spectators.

- 32) Do teams need to physically distance on the sidelines? If so, do the teams need to sit on opposite sides of the field?

Teams must maintain physical distancing while on the sidelines. Teams should sit on opposite sides of the field in order to maximize physical distancing, if possible, or when required by your club/affiliating league.

If multiple games are occurring at a shared location, there must be adequate space for all participants to properly physically distance. If field locations are adequately spaced and sized, clubs may consider having simultaneous game times, so long as physical distancing and gathering restrictions are adhered to. If clubs and participants cannot adequately distance, game times should be staggered to minimize contact with opposing clubs.

Miscellaneous

- 33) What is the difference between quarantine and isolation?

Isolation separates sick people with a contagious disease from people who are not sick. Quarantine separates and restricts the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease and who have the potential to be contagious themselves. These people may have been exposed to a disease and do not know it, or they may have the disease but do not show symptoms.

Isolation: 10 days of complete separation from others, including all family members, typically coordinated by your local health department. Completion is determined by your local health department.

Quarantine: 14 days of separation from others outside the home, typically coordinated by your local health department. Completion is determined by your local health department.

- 34) Are MSYSA clubs breaking any HIPAA laws by taking temperatures or asking players to answer a health questionnaire?

No. HIPAA laws refer to healthcare and health insurance providers including hospitals, health clinics, nursing homes, etc.



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- 35) Many local health departments in Michigan have reduced the amount of time to return to school, work, activities, etc. from 14 days to 10 days from exposure, or last sign of symptoms; why does the MSYSA guideline still require 14 days?

Previously, the CDC recommended 14-day isolation periods for individuals who tested positive for COVID-19. The CDC currently suggests that isolation and precautions can generally be discontinued 10 days *after* symptoms *first begin* and resolution of fever for at least 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing medications, and with improvement of other symptoms.

An individual who has tested positive for COVID-19 should isolate themselves in accordance with their local health departments.

Individuals who are quarantined due to an exposure with a COVID-19 case are still asked to quarantine for 14 days since their last known contact. Quarantining should be done in accordance with local health departments.

- 36) What kind of confidence can we put in "rapid" tests? To my knowledge there are both blood and swab rapid tests. Is a negative on a rapid test enough to clear a player or coach? Ex. Player has had two negative rapid tests and is waiting on the "longer" more accurate test results. Player does not have any symptoms.... can they return to training? Or do they need to wait until the longer test results are returned?

Currently there is limited data about the accuracy of different COVID-19 tests. MSYSA considers a negative rapid test result a negative case, meaning this person is allowed to return to play, unless they were exposed to a COVID-19 case.

Anyone who is exposed to a COVID-19 case must quarantine themselves in their homes for at least 14 days since last contact in accordance with their local health department. **Individuals who are quarantined according to their local health department may not return to soccer activities until their quarantine is over, regardless of any negative test result.**

Individuals in quarantine due to a COVID-19 exposure must complete their entire quarantine and be free of any symptoms before returning to soccer-related activities.

- 37) What is UM School of Public Health's position on the CDC removing its 14-day quarantine recommendation when returning from international travel?

The CDC recently changed its guidance to not recommend a 14-day quarantine after returning from international travel. However, a 14-day quarantine when exposed to COVID-19 is still recommended, whether the exposure was domestic or international.