



Monroe County Baseball Region's 2021 COVID-19 Plan for Return to Play (RTP) -April 2021

MCBR's COVID-19 Plan uses the guidance of:

- CDC COVID-19 Considerations for Youth Sports
- NYS Department of Health guidance for Sports and Recreation
(<https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/governor.ny.gov/files/atoms/files/SportsAndRecreationMasterGuidance.pdf>).

MCBR's COVID-19 Plan provides specific guidelines to the "Participants" of MCBR sanctioned activities which include MCBR's players, coaches, spectators, umpires, field managers, schools and other participants during MCBR community events and games. Baseball is a moderate risk sport for COVID-19 transmission. Each Participant is required to sign an MCBR COVID-19 Return to Play Waiver of Liability and Voluntary Assumption of Risk. PLEASE NOTE: COACHES ARE VOLUNTEERS AND NOT CONSIDERED RESPONSIBLE PARTIES UNDER NEW YORK STATE LAW. UMPIRES ARE NOT EMPLOYEES OF MCBR.

MCBR participants must immediately report COVID-19 symptoms or diagnosis daily to health care provider and team representative. The individual must quarantine and be symptom-free for 14-days to return to MCBR sanctioned play.

These MCBR RTP guidelines are designed to comply with NYS Department of Health Guidance for Sports and Recreation

All participants of MCBR sanctioned play must adhere to the following guidelines:

Physical distancing of six-feet from those not in the same household

- Players will maintain six-foot distancing and seating areas when not actively participating in a game. For 13-year-old and over teams, the coach will designate and monitor these seating areas. For under 13-year-old teams, these areas are parent/family stations managed by the parent. If a player does not have a guardian at the game, the coach will identify seating for the player maintaining six-foot distance.
- Players must adhere to the six-foot distancing rule whenever possible; even in the field of play.
- Coaches must adhere to distancing at all times.
- Players and coaches must refrain from personal contact celebrations (e.g. high-fives or fist bumps), no signs or signals that require touching of the face, or pre- and post-game meetings between coaches and players.
- Umpires must adhere to distancing at all times; balls and strikes will be called from behind the pitcher's mound.
- The pre-game plate meeting must be conducted with six-foot distancing – only one person from each team and umpire should be in the meeting.
- Spectators are limited to four per player; with a maximum of 200 total participants at an event. No spectators may enter the field of play. Spectators must adhere to six-foot distancing at all times.
- Carpooling to MCBR games across households is discouraged.

Use of face coverings (masks)

- Players will be required to wear face coverings while not actively participating in a game and are unable to maintain the six-foot distancing rule.
- Players will not be required to wear face coverings while on the field of play. Players should avoid touching their face unnecessarily.
- Coaches, umpires and spectators (ages 3 and older) will be required to wear face coverings when unable to maintain six-foot distancing.

Healthy Hygiene Practices

- Healthy hygiene practices include hand washing, using sanitizer, refraining from spitting, and covering coughs and sneezes must be observed. Team/Parent/Umpire issued hand sanitizer will be available to players, coaches and umpires during games. It is recommended that sanitizer be used between innings and at regular intervals during games.
- Eating seeds, chewing gum and products of the like are not permitted.
- Players, coaches and umpires are not permitted to share drink bottles or other personal items such as face coverings. Participants should have personal water bottles.
- If it is necessary to share critical game equipment such as bats, helmets, or catcher's equipment, the equipment must be cleaned with a disinfectant approved against COVID-19 between uses.
- Before play begins and after play ends, each team is responsible for sanitizing their dugouts, equipment and high touch areas of the playing field.
- Teams will follow COVID-19 sanitation and cleaning guidelines of the field owner.
- The start and end times of games will be scheduled to minimize the overlap of participants.

Providing adequate equipment, gear and sanitation supplies

- Each team should have an adequate supply of baseballs to supply new balls for each game. The team playing defense will use their team balls for their defense innings. Any foul balls or out of play balls should be retrieved and returned to the defensive team dugout and sanitized before being put back in play. Balls must be sanitized after each inning.
 - Each team will provide supplies including soap, sanitizer, paper towels, tissues and wipes for their players and coaches.
 - Each team will provide supplies to disinfect hard surface areas (benches, bat racks, etc.) when they first arrive at the dugout and after play.
 - Umpires should provide their own supplies as well.
 - Sanitation supplies for the restrooms and common areas are the responsibility of the field owner.
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Providing COVID-19 messaging and posted signage

- Sign(s) reminding all participants of the MCBR COVID-19 requirements will be posted appropriately at each site.
- MCBR RTP requirements will be posted on the MCBR website and sent via email to participants.
- All participants should view the following CDC COVID-19 video(<https://youtu.be/LMBziaVRChY>).

Managing a COVID-19 Event

- Participants must be assessed for COVID19 symptoms by their parents prior to any games.
- Per the CDC, COVID19 symptoms includes shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, cough, fever, chills, muscle pain, headaches, sore throat, and loss of taste or smell.
- Any participant experiencing COVID19 symptoms must stay at home; anyone participating in a MCBR event must be symptom- free and if they have had a recent positive COVID19 test have stayed isolated without symptoms for at least 14-days.
- If advised by a MCBR coach of a positive COVID19 test result following a game, MCBR will immediately notify local health officials required by the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) about any MCBR participant having a positive COVID19 test result.
- MCBR will retain event schedule information, team rosters, game attendance, and staff information; the MCBR will provide this information to state and local health officials to assist in contact tracing of exposed/potentially infected individuals.
- MCBR will act in accordance with privacy laws and regulations and notify MCBR participants of a COVID19 exposure at a MCBR event.

Spectators, coaches and players should be aware of the following facts when deciding to participate in MCBR activities:

- a. The Centers for Disease Control has identified that those who currently have a heart condition, lung disease, asthma, diabetes, or any other serious health condition have greater risks associated with COVID-19.**
- b. The Centers for Disease Control has identified those over 65 as having greater risks associated with COVID-19.**
- c. If you come in contact with someone that is presumed or confirmed to have COVID 19 or you become ill, you could possibly be isolated or quarantined by public health for 14 days or longer.**

Please keep these facts in mind when deciding to participate in MCBR events and games.

THIS DOCUMENT CONSTITUTES A PROPOSED PLAN AND NO LEGAL DUTY IS CREATED OR ASSUMED.

MCBR COVID-19 RTP Plan Participant's Compliance Requirements



MCBR provides:

- MCBR COVID-19 Plan for Return to Play (RTP)
- Waivers for each coach/participant/parent to sign prior to the season and games.
- Adequately spaced game scheduling to avoid overlaps at each field location.
- Notice of NYS Department of Health guidance for Sports and Recreation (see <https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/governor.ny.gov/files/atoms/files/SportsAndRecreationMasterGuidance.pdf>). MCBR designates respective organization of home team (or the home team manager if a team is not part of an organization) as the responsible party for meeting these standards.
- Appropriate notification to local officials of a positive COVID-19 test result as requested and required by the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH). MCBR will provide assistance in contact tracing for any MCBR coach, player or parent/participant testing positive for COVID-19.

Teams – Coaches, Players and Parents provide:

- Compliance with MCBR COVID-19 Plan for Return to Play (RTP). The collective cooperation of all participants will be required to ensure safety.
- Compliance with the field owner COVID-19 rules if they are more restrictive than the MCBR COVID-19 Plan for Return to Play (RTP) rules.
- COVID-19 signage to be posted at game sites during play; reminding all participants of ways to reduce the spread of COVID-19.
- Monitoring and enforcement of participant's adherence to the MCBR COVID-19 Plan for Return to Play (RTP) and specifically the six-foot distancing requirement using assigned coaches and parent/family seating areas.
- Game attendance recorded in the scorebook for each MCBR game including all participants - coaches, players, and spectators (family members) at each game. Coach shall ask each player names of their family members in attendance and note their names in the scorebook. The attendance information is required to assist with tracing if a COVID-19 case is identified and reported.
- Compliance with the COVID-19 game play rules to minimize exposure risk.
- Review of all MCBR COVID-19 RTP requirements with parents and players prior to the season start date.
- Signed parent, coaches, and player MCBR COVID-19 RTP waivers.
- Prior to MCBR games, an assessment of a participant's COVID-19 symptoms and if suspected stay home and if tested positive report to MCBR.
- Compliance with the COVID-19 face covering protocols and social distancing guidelines to minimize COVID-19 exposure risk.
- Team provides an adequate supply of game balls.
- Teams/parents provide sufficient equipment and gear to minimize players sharing; and, proper sanitization if equipment or gear is shared among players.
- The required social distancing spacing at the playing field.
- Teams/parents provide sanitation supplies and sanitizers for each game for use on equipment and high touch areas.
- Sanitization of the high touch areas prior to and after games.
- Compliance with only 4 family members attending a MCBR sanctioned game for a player (or players from the same family).

- Compliance with NYS Department of Health guidance for Sports and Recreation (<https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/governor.ny.gov/files/atoms/files/SportsAndRecreationMasterGuidance.pdf>).

Field or Facility Owners provide:

- Compliance with MCBR COVID-19 Plan for Return to Play (RTP). The collective cooperation of all participants will be required to ensure safety.
- Field or facility COVID-19 guidelines required for the MCBR participants to use their fields. These rules if more restrictive will be in effect for the MCBR games.
- Compliance with the COVID-19 face covering protocols and social distancing guidelines to minimize COVID-19 exposure risk.
- Compliance with the COVID-19 playing area sanitation guidelines to minimize COVID-19 exposure risk.
- Review of all MCBR COVID-19 RTP requirements prior to the season start date.
- Compliance with NYS Department of Health guidance for Sports and Recreation (<https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/governor.ny.gov/files/atoms/files/SportsAndRecreationMasterGuidance.pdf>).

Umpires provide:

- Compliance with MCBR COVID-19 Plan for Return to Play (RTP). The collective cooperation of all participants will be required to ensure safety.
- Review of all MCBR COVID-19 RTP requirements prior to the season start date.
- Compliance with the COVID-19 face covering protocols and social distancing guidelines to minimize COVID-19 exposure risk.
- Compliance with the COVID-19 game play rules to minimize exposure risk.
- Compliance with NYS Department of Health guidance for Sports and Recreation (see <https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/governor.ny.gov/files/atoms/files/SportsAndRecreationMasterGuidance.pdf>).

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