

**2020 Back to the Diamond**

**COVID-19 Proposed Safety Guidelines**

\***subject to change\***

**On Field Guidance**

Key Audience -Players, Parents/Guardians/Caregivers, Managers/Coaches

* Healthy Practice
	+ Eat healthy, exercise get enough sleep
* No handshakes/Personal Contact Celebrations
	+ Little League promotes Sportsmanship, at end of game instead of shaking hands suggestion is lineup in dugouts and tip caps to each other
	+ Parents and players should leave immediately after games/practices

**Return to Play**

* Drinks
	+ Bring own drink from home, either single disposable container or reusable container that will be brought home and sanitized.
	+ No shared containers
	+ Label containers
* Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) – taking reasonable protective measures to limit risk
	+ Recommendation is that all managers/coaches/volunteers/umpires should wear PPE such as cloth face coverings and gloves whenever possible.
	+ Recommendation for players are to wear face coverings in situations where social distance is limited. Ultimately not necessary for players to wear gloves or masks in the fields, but if a family wants their child to wear a mask in the field, then it is absolutely permitted.
* Dugouts
	+ Still recommending social distancing
		- Recommendations is to spread players out. Limit the dugout to 1 coach and 1-2 players.
		- Each player has an assigned spot either in the dugout or bleachers (or field accommodation) while waiting for their turn to bat.
		- Recommend while in dugout or in the bleachers, they wear facial covering.
* Player Equipment
	+ All equipment should be properly spaced out to avoid close contact with players outside of dugout.
	+ All sharing of equipment is discouraged. Players should have their own Helmet, Glove, Bat, Catcher’s equipment.
* Baseballs
	+ Recommend changing in game balls at least every two innings.
	+ Umpires need to limit contact with the ball.
	+ Players should retrieve foul balls opposed to fans/spectators.
	+ IF/OF warm up balls should be kept separately so only are in contact with those in those positions.
* Spitting/Sunflower Seeds, Gum etc
	+ Players must avoid licking their fingers.
	+ No spitting at all times especially dugout and playing surface

**Game Operations and Umpire Guidance**

Key Audience – Managers/Coaches, Umpires, League/District Officials and Volunteers

* Pre-Game Plate Meetings
	+ Should be eliminated
	+ Exchange lineup cards
	+ Coaches stand outside corners of batters box if need be. One manager and umpire only
	+ Players should not be included in plate meeting
	+ Recommendation is face mask is worn
* Equipment Inspection
	+ Umpire should avoid contact with equipment when it is called for an inspection
* Limit League/Game Volunteers
	+ Coaches will need to prepare ahead of games to adjust how games are handled because the recommendation is less volunteers around the players to avoid large gathering of people.
	+ Limit to what is necessary and at least one league official at each game.
	+ Discontinue use of a pressbox
	+ Recommend teams keep score or use game changer
* Field Preparation and Maintenance
	+ Fields should prepped and lined in advance to games before everyone shows up.
	+ Any equipment used needs to be sanitized before and after use
* Umpire Placement
	+ Recommendation to position behind pitchers mounds
	+ Keep safe distance from players if at all possible and wear gloves if possible. Recommendation is to wear facial covering for duration of the game.

**Facility, Fan, and Administrative Guidance**

Key Audience – League Administrators, Parents/Guardians/Caretakers, Fans/Spectators

* Guidelines have been reviewed by the CDC. Resources are at CDC.GOV
	+ [Reopening Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Public Spaces](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/reopen-guidance.html)
	+ [Reopening Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting [PDF – 9 pages]](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/pdf/Reopening_America_Guidance.pdf)
	+ [Guidance for Administrators of Parks](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/parks-rec/park-administrators.html)
	+ [Visiting Parks and Recreation Facilities](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/visitors.html)
* Clean and Disinfect
	+ Frequently touched areas between Games and Practices
		- Make a list of what those points are
			* Restrooms, gates, latches, railings, etc
* Spreading out Scheduling of Practices and Games
	+ Require coaches, directors, leagues to communicate more often, ie game locations, times, side of field etc.
	+ Follow Local and State Guidelines, number of people allowed to gather.
	+ Time between games and practices to allow one group to completely vacate before next group arrives
	+ Limit warm up to 30 minutes

**Limiting Spectator Attendance**

* Bleachers may be utilized for player positioning. Encourage spectators to bring their own chairs
	+ Practice social distancing, six feet away from families, highly encourage to wear facial coverings
	+ Recommendation to mark these locations
	+ Can league utilize streaming service for games?

**Public Restrooms**

* Leagues need to communicate to parents any changes.
* Should be limited access
* One in and one out
* Thoroughly cleaning and disinfecting on a regular basis
* Water stations should be off, wrapped and covered with signage

**Concession Stands**

* Recommendation to not allow sales of foods or beverages based on guidance received.
* Beverages should be brought alone
* Pre-packaged items will be revisited at a later date by little league.

**Post Information to Promote Everyday Preventative Actions**

* Encouraging leagues to post signs about procedures to help prevent spread of COVID19
* Common sense hygiene, social distancing, if feeling sick, have temperature, showing any symptoms, please do not visit the field

**Member Communication**

* Safety is priority
* What’s being done to assist keeping safe.
* All in effort.

\*\*UPDATE POST VISIT WITH CITY OFFICIALS 5/27\*\*

PRACTICES

* During phase 2, only 25 participants are allowed on each playing surface.
* Each team will be issued their own practice balls (as we always have)
* No scrimmages, no officiated games allowed.
* Players’ equipment to remain outside of field, separated at least 6 ft

GAMES

* During Phase 3, 50 participants are allowed on each playing surface.
* Bleachers and dugout area will be designated for players only so we can separate the players.

[www.littleleague.org/2020returntoplay](http://www.littleleague.org/2020returntoplay)