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**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)