

DOWNTOWN LITTLE LEAGUE SPRING 2021 GUIDANCE + COVID-19 FAQ

Downtown Little League is committed to meeting safety standards for players and coaches to participate in 2021 and this document is designed to answer your pressing questions as we work to maximize safety - and minimize risk - to the best of our abilities.

For additional information, please [email DLL](#) and keep apprised of updated guidelines from local and national authorities, particularly the New York State Department of Health, which lays out specific guidance for [athletic activities](#) and [travel](#) in our area.

DLL's policies are aligned closely with our governing authorities, specifically New York State, which lays out specific guidance in [this document](#).

First, note that only registered players and participating adults (coaches, umpires, volunteers, DLL administrators, etc.) are permitted to take part in activities on the field, with no exceptions. This means a continuation of DLL's no-onfield spectator policy and also applies to teams and coaches from other leagues that visit us at the BPC Ballfields for interleague play.

Second, each participant is required to complete this [online health form](#) prior to taking the field. Note that, similar to Downtown Soccer League, DLL will not regularly measure body temperature at the field but will instead ask participants to attest that their body temperature is below 100.4 degrees in the form.

When they reach the field, participants will show a stationed DLL administrator proof of the completed form on their phone or via printable copy and, if necessary, confirm verbally that they've answered "no" to all of the key questions. If a DLL administrator is not present, they will show their coach.

Third, DLL personnel will remind players and coaches to maintain appropriate physical distance to the degree it is possible and wear masks. Any participant who is not in compliance with the guidelines below may be asked to leave the premises.

1. WHAT IS DLL DOING TO KEEP PARTICIPANTS SAFE?

DLL takes significant, tangible steps to ensure the safety of all players, coaches, and other participants. This was the case prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, and, in the wake of the virus, we've increased our already robust safety standards. In particular, we take the following measures, all of which are detailed as part of this FAQ:

- Online health checks via [this form](#) for each participant before each DLL activity, including verified temperature compliance
- Additional temperature spot checks from time to time at DLL ballfields
- Mandatory wearing of masks for all participants
- Stationing of the "home plate" umpire behind the pitcher's mound
- Physical distancing measures to the extent that it is possible, including while entering and exiting the facility
- Continuation of our legacy no-onfield spectator policy at the BPC Ballfields

2. SPECIFICALLY, WHAT IS BEING DONE TO KEEP THE BPC BALLFIELDS SAFE? AND WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER FIELDS AND FACILITIES THAT DLL USES?

All Battery Parks Ballfields surfaces and common areas, including dugouts, are sanitized multiple times daily by BPCA staff, in accordance with CDC guidelines. Bathrooms are also cleaned, and sanitized multiple times daily and equipped with soap, paper towels and water.

Further, DLL offers each team hand sanitizer and [ClearGear](#), a product used by professional sports teams and the U.S. Border Patrol to keep their facilities and equipment safe from human coronavirus and other. It has [demonstrated effectiveness](#) against viruses similar to COVID-19. ClearGear was distributed to coaches at Equipment Day on March 6 and sanitizer is available for coaches to pick up at the Battery Park City Ballfields.

Similar to BPCA, our partners at [NYC Parks](#), the [Hudson River Park Trust](#) (Piers 25, 26 + 40) and other facilities DLL uses are committed to the highest safety standards.

3. I KNOW THAT DLL HAS A LONGSTANDING NO-SPECTATOR POLICY ON THE BPC BALLFIELDS DURING PRACTICES OR GAMES. WILL THAT REMAIN IN PLACE WITH THE BPC TERRACE UNAVAILABLE FOR VIEWING IN 2021?

Yes, we are continuing our longstanding no-onfield spectator policy at the Battery Park City Ballfields i.e., ONLY players, coaches, umpires, DLL board members, and BPCA staff will be permitted on any part of the BPC Ballfields, batting cages, walkways or other areas during practices or games. The DLL Board reserves the right to admit others to the field as necessary for league activities.

With the reconstruction of the terrace overlooking the Ballfields likely to continue throughout the 2021 season, observers are free to watch all games and practices from the sidewalk area outside of the gates along Murray, West and Warren Streets.

As always, Challengers division games for our special-needs participants are the lone exception to DLL's no-onfield spectator policy at the BPC Ballfields. Spectators at those games will be limited to family and friends and, of course, will be required to wear masks and to maintain appropriate physical distance from one another – and to the competitors - to the degree it is possible.

As for locations besides the BPC Ballfields e.g., Rockefeller Park, Piers 25, 26 + 40, Corlears Hook Park, etc., etc., we ask that spectators remain a safe distance from players and coaches for safety's sake. And masks, of course, are required to be worn.

4. DO I NEED TO TAKE ANY ACTION BEFORE ARRIVING AT DLL ACTIVITIES?

Yes. The week of March 8th, DLL rolled out [an online health screening form](#), to be filled out for each player and coach in advance of a DLL activity. Completion of health screening is mandatory for anyone to participate in DLL activities in any way.

As part of the online attestation, all DLL participants, including coaches, will be asked to confirm that their temperature does not exceed 100.4 degrees. This is similar to the steps that other neighboring leagues, such as Downtown Soccer League, have taken.

In accordance with our policy in the summer and fall of 2020, if someone

doesn't feel well in advance of activities, they should not attend, **even if they do not have a temperature exceeding 100.4 degrees**. Besides elevated body temperature, other potential red flags include a cough or chills, headache, muscle pain, shortness of breath, sore throat or loss of taste or smell.

5. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A PARTICIPANT ARRIVES AT A GAME OR PRACTICE?

Completion of the online health check will be verified, and the participant will be cleared to take part in that day's activities.

If an online health check was not completed before arriving at a DLL activity, the participant will be asked to complete the form before participating via the online form. If the online form is not available for any reason, the participant will be asked to health-check questions verbally.

At the BPC Ballfields, verification of the online health check will be handled at the south ramp abutting Murray Street. We thank everyone for being patient and ask all to please maintain appropriate physical distance as they wait to be admitted to the field. We also ask all members of the DLL community to refrain from waiting on the ramp unless they are preparing to have their online health form checked.

For timing's sake, we ask people to arrive at least 15 minutes in advance of their scheduled activity to ensure that the activity begins on time. Anyone that departs after being screened may be re-screened upon returning.

As noted above, if someone doesn't feel well in advance of activities, they should not come to the BPC Ballfields at all.

6. IS A MASK REQUIRED AT DLL ACTIVITIES?

Yes, all participants are required to wear masks – not neck gaiters - during DLL activities, including when in the field, on base or in the dugout. Masks should only be removed if necessary and very briefly, e.g., to drink water, and should remain on the chin during such a short period.

Please click on this link for [CDC guidance](#) on masks and other types of personal

protective equipment (PPE), as well as instructions on use, cleaning, and disinfection.

7. WILL PARTICIPANTS PRACTICE PHYSICAL DISTANCING?

Yes, physical distancing of at least three feet will be practiced to the extent it is possible for participants at DLL activities, including players and coaches in the batting cage and dugout areas.

8. WHAT ABOUT THE SHARING OF EQUIPMENT?

Equipment, including batting gloves, should not be shared per [Little League guidelines](#) and players are asked to bring their own baseball mitt, batting helmet, bat and protective cup. All individual equipment should be spaced out in the dugout and kept with the individual players, instead of being grouped in a corner for community use.

If you need to buy equipment, this [sizing guide](#) will help. As for where to buy, DLL recommends Dick's Sporting Goods, Paragon Sports, and Amazon. A link to a discount coupon from Paragon is available via [this link](#) through April 12.

DLL will supply two sets of catching equipment in each bag to prevent sharing and the gear may be sanitized by an adult or coach with the [Clear Gear](#) that was distributed at Equipment Day on March 6th.

In addition, game and practice baseballs and softballs will be replaced frequently for safety reasons.

9. HOW ABOUT THE BALLS THAT DLL PROVIDES IN THE BATTING CAGE?

With evidence emerging that the [likelihood of surface contamination is low](#), DLL will continue to supply dimpled baseballs and softballs in the batting cage, as it has in the past. Of course, if that is uncomfortable for anyone using the cage, they are free to use their own baseballs or softballs.

10. WHAT IF A PLAYER OR COACH FEELS ILL DURING A GAME OR PRACTICE?

Any participant who feels ill will be asked to leave DLL activities immediately. If anyone departs after falling ill, we will notify other direct participants and, if necessary, will terminate the activity.

Repeating a point mentioned above: If someone doesn't feel well in advance of DLL activities, they should not attend, **even if they do not have a temperature exceeding 100.4 degrees.**

11. IF A PARTICIPANT TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19, HOW SHOULD IT BE HANDLED?

Here's how the process works with POSITIVE individuals as well as PRIMARY and SECONDARY contacts.

First, per [New York State guidelines](#), the POSITIVE individual should be placed in isolation immediately and avoid all DLL activities. DLL should then be alerted of a positive test as soon as possible via email at DowntownLLNYC@gmail.com, copying our chief safety officer, Billy Reilly, at breilly18@gmail.com.

This action will enable us to quickly determine whether a POSITIVE participant's teammates or coaches should be quarantined as well.

To that end, if the POSITIVE individual has attended any DLL activities within 72 hours of the positive test OR the onset of symptoms, any players or coaches determined to have been at the same activities will also be required to enter into a 10-day quarantine from DLL activities.

SECONDARY contacts, such as siblings of a PRIMARY contact that were not at the same DLL activity, are treated differently per New York State guidelines and are not required to quarantine. This is in lockstep with how cases are handled by the New York City Department of Education.

12. WHAT IF A PARTICIPANT IS CONSIDERED A PRIMARY CONTACT BY THEIR SCHOOL OR ANOTHER ORGANIZATION OR FACILITY?

If a student is not permitted to attend school or any other organization/facility because they are considered a primary contact by their school or another organization/facility, they are unable to participate in DLL activities.

Similarly, if a coach or other adult volunteer is considered a primary contact at work or another organization/facility, they are unable to participate in any DLL activities.

13. ARE PARTICIPANTS REQUIRED TO QUARANTINE IF THEY TRAVEL DOMESTICALLY OUTSIDE OF THE SIX-STATE REGION (NY, NJ, CT, MA, PA, VT)?

No; HOWEVER, as a precaution and to help keep the DLL season on track for our 1,000+ registered players, we strongly encourage all participants to obtain a negative test upon returning to NYC after traveling outside of the region.

Also, in alignment with [New York State](#) and the [NYC Department of Education](#), we encourage participants to consider quarantining if possible. As a DLL community, we want to do all we can to ensure that the 2021 Spring season continues uninterrupted.

Please note that, per NY State and the DOE, international travelers are required to quarantine.

For your convenience, below are a few testing options:

[CityMD](#) - on Chambers or Fulton Streets

[ClarityMV](#) – mobile testing units in Battery Park City

[Maverick Health](#) - 200 Church Street

[SpeedySticks](#) - at-home testing

[Telopoint](#) – at-home testing

Note: DLL is not affiliated with - and receives no remuneration from – any of the testing organizations listed.

14. I'M FULLY VACCINATED. DO I HAVE TO QUARANTINE IF I'M A PRIMARY CONTACT?

[Per the CDC](#), individuals that are fully vaccinated are exempt from quarantine requirements for 90 days from the time of full COVID-19 vaccination. The lone exception, of course, would be if a vaccinated individual tests positive for the virus.

15. I'M A COACH. WHAT ARE MY RESPONSIBILITIES?

Coaches are responsible for ensuring that their players are adhering to safety guidelines, such as wearing a mask and maintaining physical distance as it is possible.

When the game ends, there are no handshakes between teams, simply a congratulatory wave between the participants, and then coaches are expected to make sure the dugout is clean so the next group that enters doesn't have to touch any belongings or trash left behind. We also ask coaches to ensure that their team clears the field immediately after practices and games.

In some cases, at satellite fields, it is possible that coaches may be asked to measure body temperatures for their players and other participants from time to time.

16. ARE PARTICIPANTS ALLOWED TO BRING FOOD AND DRINK?

Per longstanding BPCA policy, food and drink are not allowed at the Ballfields, with the exception of water. Water bottles should not be shared.

We STRONGLY encourage parents not to schedule snack calendars and snack breaks for DLL players at any DLL-sponsored activities, no matter the location. We want to discourage sharing of food or drink and also want to make sure children don't have their masks off in close proximity to one another because they're eating a snack. Thanks very much for your attention here.

17. ANYTHING ELSE?

Yes – thank you for being part of DLL and thank you for your patience as we wind our way through this unprecedented DLL season. We will learn a lot together as we go along and are very excited to have you and your children as part of the DLL community.

As noted above, this document will be continually updated as the season progresses. Thank you.