

TO: Club Presidents
DT: November 24, 2020
RE: Covid Updates

First, thanks again for all your efforts toward keeping everyone safe up to this point in the season. This is a quick note to provide a reminder to remain active in your Covid-19 mitigation protocols.

It's also to confirm the Commonwealth of PA has announced a number of new mitigation efforts. Some are specific mandates while others are advisories. There are four that have the most direct influence on any remaining or upcoming activity.

Stay At Home Advisory

Governor Wolf issued a Stay At Home advisory on November 23, 2020. The action advises Pennsylvanians to stay home except to go to work, school, for food, for medicine, or medical appointments/treatment.

- View the Advisory: <https://www.governor.pa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/20201123-TWW-stay-at-home-advisory.pdf>

It is PA West Soccer's position that our clubs should observe the advisory in an effort to help mitigate the substantial rate of spread in each of the counties in our half of Pennsylvania.

Masking Mandate

On November 23, 2020 Dr. Levine issued a revised masking mandate requiring masks be worn inside and outside when with others not from the same household and cannot maintain sustained physical distance. This mandate applies to athletic activity except as provided in the order. There are exemptions for some sports but soccer is not one of them.

- View the FAQ and Order: <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Guidance/Universal-Masking-FAQ.aspx>

New Limits

The state announced new, lower limits for gatherings.

Outdoors

- Under 2,000 people - 15% of max occupancy
- 2,001-10,000 people - 10% of max occupancy
- More than 10,000 people - 5% of max occupancy up to 2,500 people

Indoors

- Under 2,000 people - 10% of max occupancy
- 2,001-10,000 people - 5% of max occupancy
- More than 10,000 people – No events over 500 people

The limits are based on standards set by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Life Safety Code.

Indoor Training/Futsal

For those training indoors or playing futsal (PA West Soccer does not sanction indoor league play), we are recommending you utilize US Soccer's Indoor Considerations.

Find them at: <https://www.ussoccer.com/playon/guides/indoor-considerations>

This guidance provides important information for assessing and mitigating risk of playing indoors.

Travel Quarantine

Dr. Levine issued an order requiring Pennsylvanians visiting another state to have a negative COVID-19 test 72 hours before returning to the commonwealth, or to quarantine for 14 days upon return to PA. This does NOT apply to people who commute to and from another state for work or medical treatment. The order took effect on November 20.

- View the [Order of the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Health for Mitigation Relating to Travel](#)

Possible Illness

When returning to activity, please remind players, coaches, and parents that if they do not feel well they must remain at home. This means if they have an upset stomach and think its food poisoning...stay home. If they are achy and they think is from too much exercise...stay home. If they have sniffles/congestion and think the issue is allergies...stay home. Better safe than sorry.

Notify the State Association

Lastly, please notify Tim McCoy via email at tim@pawest-soccer.org with any Covid-19 issues like confirmed positives and possible exposures. Also, contact your County Health Department or the State Health Department (in the absence of a county health department) for further guidance.

Covid Alert PA

PA has introduced a new Covid-19 tracing app. It's free. It's secure. It's a great way for everyone to protect themselves. Info is available at: <https://www.pa.gov/covid/covid-alert-pa/>

Covid-19 Info Center

The latest updates will be posted on the PA West Soccer web site: <https://www.pawest-soccer.org/news/covid-19-info-center/>

Again, thank you for your continued vigilance as we strive to keep our soccer community safe.