Return to Activities Protocol June 2021 Revision

Goals

- Zero deaths due to COVID
- Allow for larger events if possible

Process

- Information from WHO, CDC, health authorities
- Input from medical experts and stakeholders (Regions, Programs, athletes)
- Review similar organizations’ protocols
Return to Activities Protocol June 2021 Revision

Protocol:
- For ALL in person activities except fundraising & school-hosted
- Allows for return to larger events with low to moderate COVID rates

Risk Mitigation:
- Masks, distancing, on-site screening, travel, accommodations, meals, sanitization, spectators, transportation

Tools:
- Online Tool/App to determine event risk level and track participant vaccinations/testing
- Educational materials
Protocol for Returning to Activities

**If in-person activities are permitted in your local area, follow below guidance to determine protocols needed, in addition to local regulations.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Low Community COVID Rate</th>
<th>Moderate COVID Rate</th>
<th>Significant COVID Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>≤ 10 new cases daily per 100,000 people ** OR High Vaccination Rate &gt; 80% of participants are fully vaccinated* AND COVID rate is ≤ 50 new cases per 100,000 people</td>
<td>11-15 new cases daily per 100,000 people ** AND &lt;80% of participants are fully vaccinated*</td>
<td>Community rates are &gt;15 new cases daily per 100,000 people ** AND &lt;80% of participants are fully vaccinated*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Low Risk</th>
<th>Moderate Risk</th>
<th>Significant Risk</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Local regulations for event size and risk mitigation + additional SO precautions for masks, distancing, travel and accommodations (see green guidance)</td>
<td>Local regulations for event size and risk mitigation + additional SO precautions for masks, distancing, sanitization, spectators, onsite screening, travel and accommodations (see yellow guidance)</td>
<td>Local Regulations + Size restrictions (50 or less inside) and substantial SO precautions in all areas (see orange guidance)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Returning: Risk Levels across 3 Colors

**LOW COMMUNITY COVID RATE**
- < 10 new cases daily per 100,000 people **
  - OR
  - **HIGH VACCINATION RATE**
  - > 80% of participants are fully vaccinated*
    - AND
    - COVID rate is ≤ 50 new cases per 100,000 people

**MODERATE COVID RATE**
- 11-15 new cases daily per 100,000 people**
  - AND
  - < 80% of participants are fully vaccinated*

**HIGH COMMUNITY COVID RATE**
- Community rates are > 15 new cases daily per 100,000 people**
  - AND
  - < 80% of participants are fully vaccinated*

LOW COVID OR HIGH VACCINATED

MODERATE COVID AND NOT ENOUGH VACCINATED

HIGH COVID AND NOT ENOUGH VACCINATED
Risk Mitigation Guidance for Returning to Activities

NOTE: Local Authority requirements and protocol must always be followed as the baseline and if more stringent than the below

Required for all Levels:

• **FORMS**: Athletes, Coaches, Unified Partners, Officials, Volunteers, and Staff complete the COVID Code of Conduct & Risk Form and Non-communicable disease waiver (for US Only)

• **OPERATIONS**:
  • Event organizers must have a COVID POC identified.
  • Event organizers must have a plan for identifying and isolating individuals with COVID symptoms, contract tracing for the event, and notifying health authorities, per local requirements.

• **POSITIVE CASES OR PREVIOUS COVID DISEASE**:
  • No participation within 10 days of COVID positive test and 7 days of any symptoms.
  • Athletes and Unified partners should receive medical clearance prior to participating in sport.
  • If the athlete and Unified partner have been active on the playing field without symptoms,
  • Programs must educate on this requirement.

• **SANITIZATION**: Sanitization protocol for all communal shared areas (e.g., bathrooms, meal areas) and frequently touched surfaces for all levels. For Yellow and Orange, minimize shared equipment, but, if unable, disinfect between uses.

• **TRANSPORTATION**: Private transportation encouraged as much as possible. Social distancing on any shared transport organized by SO. Masking required on any SO transportation, unless all participants are vaccinated.

• **VIRTUAL ACTIVITIES**: In all levels, and under “Stay at Home” Orders, some opportunities for virtual activities should be offered to those individuals who may be unable to attend in-person.

NOTE: For International Events, if event is more than 7 days in length, rapid PCR tests be done at least once at the midpoint during the event. If anyone tests positive, they should not participate, be isolated, and contract tracing should be conducted per event protocol and local regulations.
Risk Mitigation Guidance for Returning to Activities

Protocol:

COVID Code of Conduct & Risk Form and Non-communicable disease waiver (for US Only)

COVID Person
Plan for if someone is sick with COVID
Provide virtual/at home activities to accommodate athletes

No participation within 10 days of COVID positive test and 7 days of any symptoms.
Medical clearance needed after COVID prior to participating in sports

NOTE: Local Authority requirements and protocol must always be followed as the baseline and if more stringent than the below
Key Differences: Risk Level: Green (low)

**LOW RISK**

**Event Size and Venue Type:** Per local regulations.

**Onsite Screening:** Must have signage on preventive measures.

**Masks:** Strongly recommended for ALL participants; All individuals who are unvaccinated must wear masks at all times, except during rigorous exercise.

**Distancing:** Take active measures to distance outside of sport activities.

**Travel:** All participants must be from low transmission area or be vaccinated. If air/train travel, strongly recommended a negative PCR test be required prior to attending event. Individuals with positive results instructed to not attend.

**Accommodations:** Up to 4 individuals may share a room, if ALL individuals in room are vaccinated. Max of 2 per room if one individual is unvaccinated. Otherwise, individuals sharing a room must live in the same household.

**UNVACCINATED?**

PLEASE WEAR A MASK
Key Differences: Risk Level: Green (low)

LOW RISK

Large events, indoor or outdoor ok
Multi-day events ok

Masks strongly recommend
Masks required for unvaccinated
Distancing actively encouraged
Sanitization required
Reminder signs on site

Travel from low-risk areas or vaccinated
Travel with negative PCR
Accommodations up to 4 if all vaccinated
Accommodations up to 2 if 1 unvaccinated
Key Differences: Risk Level: Yellow (moderate)

**MODERATE RISK**

**Event Size and Venue Type:** Per local regulations.

**Onsite Screening:** Must have verbal confirmation of no symptoms for ALL participants and spectators. Recommended onsite temperature checks on arrival daily, for duration of event. Must have signage on preventive measures.

**Masks:** Required for ALL participants except during rigorous exercise.

**Distancing:** Distancing required at all times.

**Travel:** Travel is permitted, with precautions. All participants must be from low transmission area or be vaccinated. If air/train travel, a negative PCR test is required prior to attending event. Individuals with positive results instructed to not attend.

**Accommodations:** Up to 4 individuals may share a room, if ALL individuals in room are vaccinated. Max of 2 per room if one Individual is unvaccinated. Otherwise, individuals sharing a room must live in the same household.

**Type of Activity:** Stagger start times of event.

**Spectators:** Limited. Must be separated from athletes and not attend participant areas.

**Meals:** No self-serve buffet meals. Participants bring own water bottles. Stagger mealtimes and cohort groups.

**Non-Sport Gatherings:** Minimize large social gatherings, where possible.

**Ceremonies:** Strongly recommend holding outdoors.
Key Differences: Risk Level: Yellow (moderate)

MODERATE RISK

Large events, indoor or outdoor, multi-day ok

Masks required
Distancing required
Sanitization required
Verbal screening on site

Travel from low risk or vaccinated with negative PCR
Accommodations up to 4 if all vaccinated
Accommodations up to 2 if 1 unvaccinated

Staggered start times
Limited spectators
Ceremonies strongly recommended outdoors
### Key Differences: Risk Level: Orange (significant)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Size and Venue Type:</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Outdoor only event:</strong> Size per local authority regulations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Indoor or indoor-outdoor event:</strong> ≤ 50 participants.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Onsite Screening:** Must have written confirmation of no symptoms for ALL participants and recommended onsite daily temperature checks. Must have signage on preventive measures and reminder to stay home if sick or any symptoms.

**Masks:** Required for ALL participants, except during rigorous exercise.

**Distancing:** Distancing required at all times.

**Travel:** Not permitted outside local area, state, province/territory.

**Accommodations:** Overnight events with accommodations organized by Special Olympics not permitted.

**Type of Activity:** Individual sports and indirect contact sports only for competition play; No competitive play for contact sports – drills only; For non-sport, distancing and no direct contact.

**Spectators:** Not permitted, unless support from caregiver is needed.

**Meals:** Participants bring their own meals and water bottles and/or pick-up only. Stagger mealtimes and cohort groups.

**Non-Sport Gatherings:** No large social gatherings.

**Ceremonies:** No in-person opening/closing ceremonies. Find alternatives to placing medals around the athletes' necks to maintain distancing.

**Multi-Day Events Testing Protocol:** Multi-day/overnight events not permitted.
Key Differences: Risk Level: Orange (significant)

**SIGNIFICANT RISK**

Outdoor large events ok
Indoors: < 50 people
Only single day

Masks required
Distancing required
Sanitization required
Written screening on site

No Travel
No spectators
No contact sports
No meals provided--bring own food/water bottles
No ceremonies
Additional Guidance for Programmatic Areas

SPORT
Follow local regulations for Green (Low Risk) and Yellow (Moderate Risk). No direct contact in Orange (Significant Risk). Updated sport specific guidance available. Program will determine what modifications are feasible.

EDUCATION
Programs must continue to follow the school’s protocols and guidance on when and how activities resume.

LEADERSHIP
Leadership activities may resume provided all requirements for size restrictions, infection control precautions, and screening is in place according to risk level. Virtual programming should continue to be offered, where needed.

HEALTH
Updated safety guidance will be provided for returning to in-person Healthy Athlete and Young Athlete events. Virtual health programming and education continued to be offered as needed.
Additional Materials in Supplemental Documentation

UPDATED:
- Participant Risk Form and COVID-19 Code of Conduct
- Screening and Tracking Report Form Template
- Sample signage and educational posters on precautions and COVID-19 symptoms
- Sport specific recommendations for modifying activities
- Healthy Athlete and Young Athlete event guidance
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

NEW:
- Social Media Graphics
- Educational infographic for returning to Sport after COVID diagnosis

UNCHANGED:
- Virtual Athlete Release Form (for non-registered athletes)
- Communicable Disease Waiver for Participants (US Only)
- General Waiver of Liability, Assumption of Risk, and Indemnity (US example)

Available at: https://resources.specialolympics.org/resources-to-help-during-the-crisis/return-to-activities-during-covid-19?locale=en
FAQs

- When can I get back to activities?
- Is Special Olympics International requiring that everyone be vaccinated?
- If I have tested positive for COVID-19 in the past, can I return to activities?
- Under the Low Risk (Green) Level, what is meant by “Fully Vaccinated”? Why can’t someone be only “partially vaccinated” and participate?
QUESTIONS?

Protocol and accompanying materials available at:

https://resources.specialolympics.org/return-to-activities-during-covid-19