

# Global Return to Activities Protocol Revision June 29, 2021

***Special Olympics***



# 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:

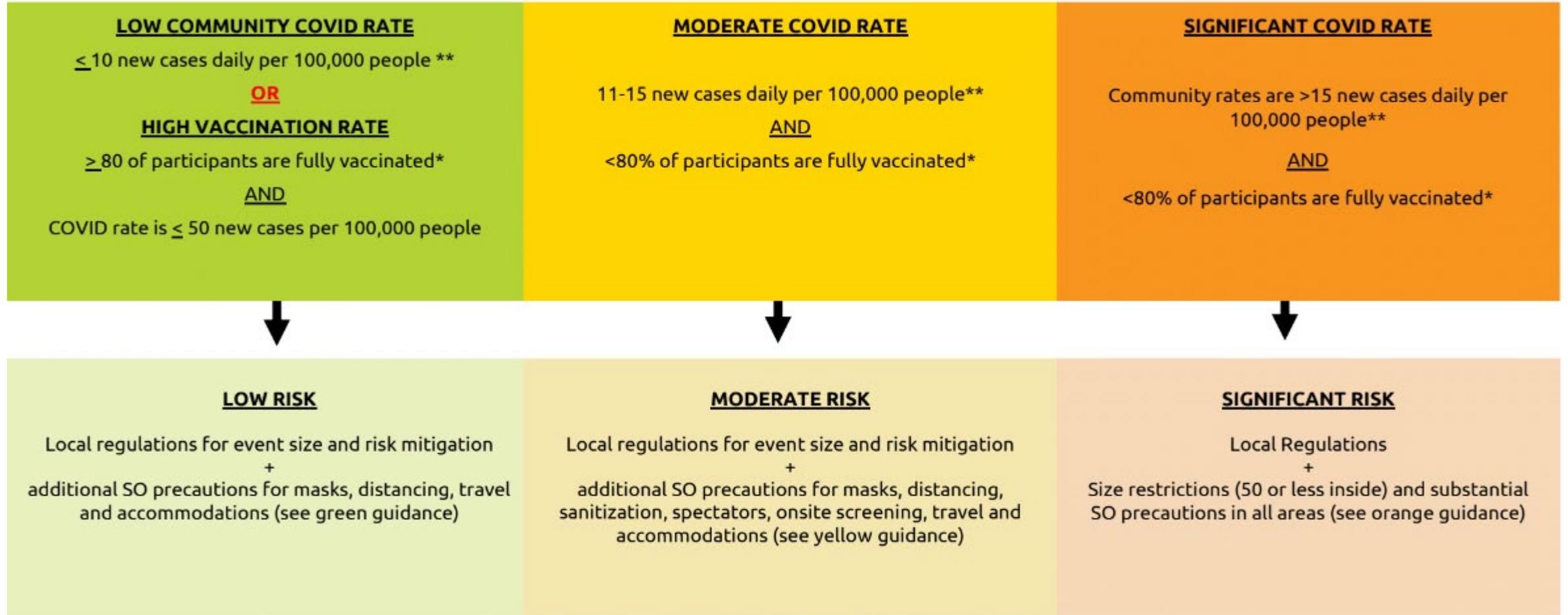
- Masks, distancing, on-site screening, travel, accommodations, meals, sanitization, spectators, transportation

## Tools:

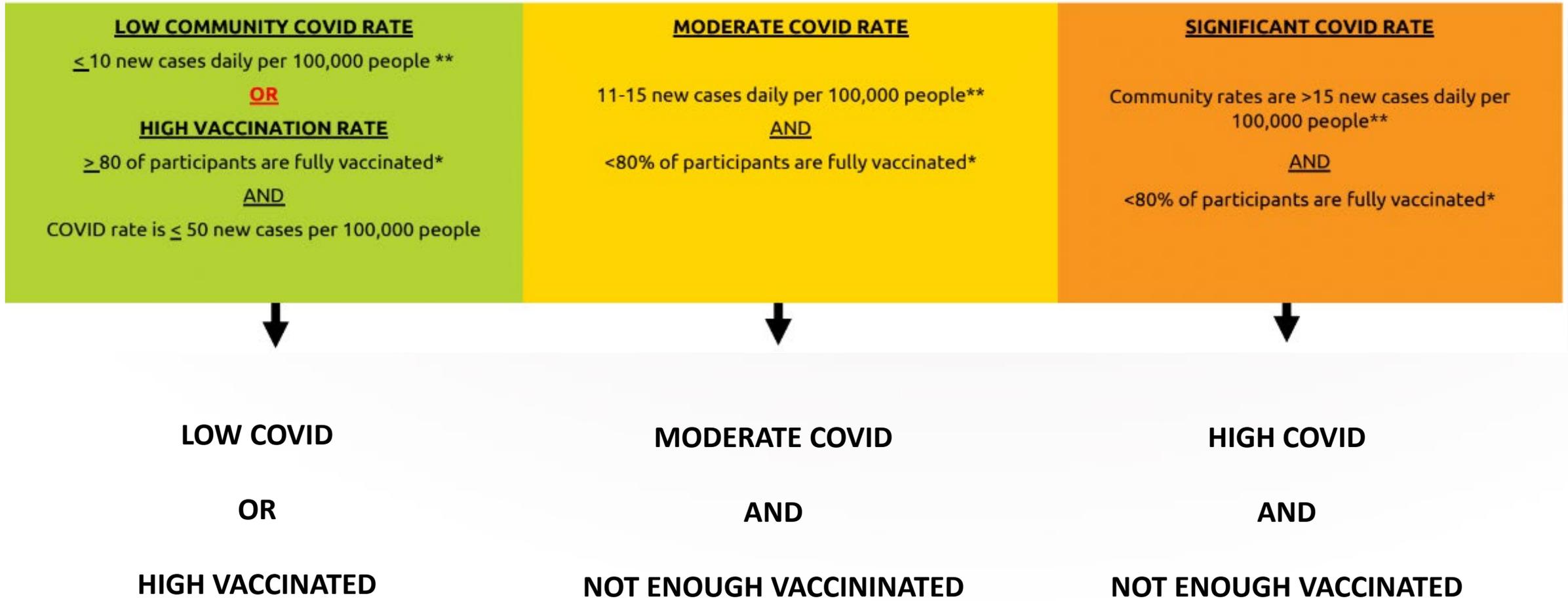
- Online Tool/App to determine event risk level and track participant vaccinations/testing
- Educational materials

# 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.***



# Returning: Risk Levels across 3 Colors



# 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, contact 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 contact 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

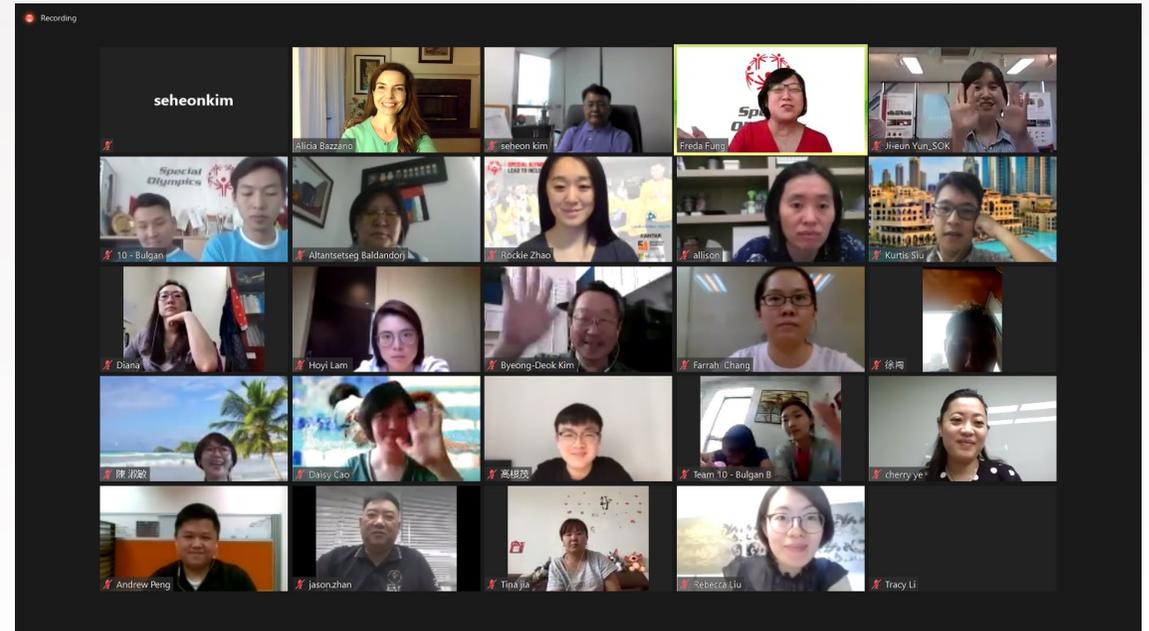
Plan for if someone is sick with COVID

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.



# 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.

RISK LEVEL:  
GREEN/YELLOW

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## ACCOMMODATIONS

UNVACCINATED



Up to 2 people may share a room if 1 individual is vaccinated

VACCINATED



Up to 4 individuals may share a room

## OTHERWISE

Individuals sharing a room must live in the same household.

# 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)



**SIGNIFICANT RISK**

**Event Size and Venue Type:**

**Outdoor only event:** Size per local authority regulations.

**Indoor or indoor-outdoor event:** ≤ 50 participants.

**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.

RISK LEVEL:  
YELLOW/ORANGE

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MASKS REQUIRED  
FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS



EXCEPT DURING  
RIGOROUS EXERCISE

# Key Differences: Risk Level: Orange (significant)



## SIGNIFICANT RISK

Outdoor large events ok

Indoors:  $\leq$  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 continued 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)*



# 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>

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