

Special Olympics Return to Activities Protocol



Revised February 2022

If in-person activities are permitted in your local area, follow below guidance (color matrix) to determine protocols needed, in addition to local regulations. Where your community transmission and vaccination rates intersect determines your risk category.**

Community Transmission (average daily new cases per 100,000 people)

Vaccination Rate (percent of participants at event)		0 – 10	11 – 50	51 – 99	≥100
	100%				
	80 – 99%				
	51 – 79%				
≤50%					

<u>LOW RISK</u>	<u>MODERATE RISK</u>	<u>SIGNIFICANT RISK</u>	<u>VERY HIGH RISK</u>
Local regulations for event size + additional SO precautions (see green guidance)	Local regulations for event size + additional SO precautions (see yellow guidance)	Local Regulations (outdoor) + Size restrictions (100 or less indoor) and additional SO precautions (see orange guidance)	Virtual activities only for groups of >10 participants. Groups ≤10 can gather with additional SO precautions (see orange guidance)

***KEY DEFINITIONS:**

- **Fully Vaccinated:** Two (2) weeks after receiving all recommended doses, that a participant is eligible for, of a COVID-19 vaccine(s) that has been listed for emergency use by the World Health Organization (WHO).
- **Participants:** Athletes, Unified partners, Coaches, Officials, Volunteers, HODs, SO Staff, others in attendance of an activity, and families/caregivers if they will not exclusively be in spectator only spaces.
- **Community:** Generally, the community is the county/district. If data is not available for the county/district, then use the smallest community (e.g., state) for which the data is available.
- **Rolling 7-day average/100,000:** a 7-day moving average, takes the case rates per 100,000 people for the last 7 days, adds them up, and divides it by 7.

****Resources for Identifying 7-Day Rolling Average Case Rate:**

- Country Level Data Globally (this is per Million to divide by 10): <https://tinyurl.com/944jd6xe>
- State Level Data in the US: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2020/national/coronavirus-us-cases-deaths/>
- County/District Level Data should also be available from your Local Health Authorities and/or Local Resources.

Protocols	Low Risk	Moderate Risk	Significant Risk
<p>Pre-event testing <i>Negative COVID-19 test required within 72 hours prior to arrival at event.</i></p> <p><i>Pre-event testing is not required for regularly occurring sports practices.</i></p>	<p>Pre-event testing is not required but may be implemented by individual Programs.</p>	<p>Pre-event testing is required in the following conditions: At minimum, unvaccinated participants should be tested prior to competition, overnight, and events requiring travel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In areas of community transmission rates 11 – 50 51 – 79% of participants are vaccinated*. - In areas of community transmission rates 51 – 99 80 - 99% of participants are vaccinated*. <p>PCR testing recommended; however rapid-antigen (including at-home) testing can be used when access to PCR testing is limited.</p>	<p>Pre-event testing is not required but may be implemented by individual Programs.</p>
<p>Event Size and Venue</p>	<p>Size and venue per local authority regulations.</p>	<p>Size and venue per local authority regulations.</p>	<p>Outdoors: Size per local authority regulations Indoors or Mixed Indoors/Outdoors: ≤ 100 participants</p>
<p>Type of sport/activity</p>	<p>Per local authority regulations.</p>	<p>Per local authority regulations. Stagger start times to reduced crowding at the event.</p>	<p>Per local authority regulations. For non-sport (e.g., leadership trainings, meetings, etc.): Maintain physical distancing and minimize direct contact.</p>
<p>Forms</p>	<p>All participants complete the COVID Code of Conduct & Risk Form.</p> <p>US Programs only: All athletes, Unified partners, coaches, and volunteers must submit Communicable Disease Waiver.</p>	<p>All participants complete the COVID Code of Conduct & Risk Form.</p> <p>US Programs only: All athletes, Unified partners, coaches, and volunteers must submit Communicable Disease Waiver.</p>	<p>All participants complete the COVID Code of Conduct & Risk Form.</p> <p>US Programs only: All athletes, Unified partners, coaches, and volunteers must submit Communicable Disease Waiver.</p>
<p>Operations</p>	<p>Event organizers must have a COVID Point of Contact identified. Event organizers must have a plan for identifying and isolating individuals with COVID symptoms, rapid testing (if necessary), contract tracing for the event, and notifying health authorities, per local requirements.</p>	<p>Event organizers must have a COVID Point of Contact identified. Event organizers must have a plan for identifying and isolating individuals with COVID symptoms, rapid testing (if necessary), contract tracing for the event, and notifying health authorities, per local requirements.</p>	<p>Event organizers must have a COVID Point of Contact identified. Event organizers must have a plan for identifying and isolating individuals with COVID symptoms, rapid testing (if necessary), contract tracing for the event, and notifying health authorities, per local requirements.</p>

<p>Onsite Screening <i>Required of all events: Signage on preventive measures (handwashing distancing and masking) and education on symptoms and reminder to stayhome if sick or any symptoms.</i></p>	<p>No onsite screening required.</p>	<p>Verbal confirmation of no symptoms for all participants and spectators + recommended onsite temperature checks on arrival (each day, if multiple days).</p>	<p>Written confirmation (electronically or paper) of no symptoms for all participants + recommended onsite temperature checks.</p> <p>Verbal confirmation for spectators on arrival + recommended temperature check (each day, if event is multiple days).</p>
<p>Positive COVID test or previous COVID disease</p>	<p>Per local authority regulations.</p> <p>Athletes and Unified partners should receive medical clearance prior to participating in sport. Programs must educate on this requirement.</p>	<p>Per local authority regulations.</p> <p>Athletes and Unified partners must receive medical clearance prior to participating in sport. Programs must educate on this requirement.</p>	<p>Per local authority regulations.</p> <p>Athletes and Unified partners must receive medical clearance prior to participating in sport. Programs must educate on this requirement.</p>
<p>Masking <i>Not required during rigorous exercise.</i></p>	<p>Masks recommended for ALL participants.</p>	<p>Masks required for ALL participants indoors. Masks recommended outdoors when unable to physically distance.</p>	<p>Masks required for ALL participants.</p>
<p>Transportation</p>	<p>Masking required for all on any SO transportation, unless all participants are vaccinated.</p>	<p>Masking required for all on any SO transportation, unless all participants are vaccinated.</p>	<p>Private transportation encouraged as much as possible. Masking required for all on any SO transportation.</p>
<p>Travel <i>All travel requirements for host country/state/territory as well as for return to home should also be considered in planning.</i></p>	<p>If traveling from a moderate risk (yellow) location, you should be vaccinated. If unvaccinated, you are permitted to travel with a negative test in accordance with the requirements of the moderate risk (yellow) location.</p> <p>If air/train travel, recommended that a COVID-19 test be taken prior to departing home location. Individuals with positive results are instructed to stay home.</p>	<p>If traveling from another moderate risk (yellow) location, a negative COVID-19 test should be required prior to departing home location. Individuals with positive results are instructed to stay home. (See pre-event testing requirements in line one (1) of protocol grid.)</p> <p>If traveling from an area of low risk (green), taking a COVID-19 test upon return home is recommended.</p>	<p>Not permitted outside local area, state, province/territory.</p>

Accommodations	No limitation on number of vaccinated individuals sharing a room, per local regulations. If one individual is unvaccinated, max of 2 per room, unless living in the same household.	Up to 4 vaccinated individuals may share a room. If one individual is unvaccinated, max of 2 per room, unless living in the same household.	Overnight events with accommodations organized by SO not permitted .
Multi-Day Events Testing Protocol	Required for International events and recommended for State/Country events: If event is more than 7 days, COVID-19 test is recommended at least once (at the mid-point) for credentialed participants.	Required for International Events and recommended for State/Country events: If event is more than 7 days, rapid PCR test is recommended at least once (at the mid-point) for credentialed participants.	Multi-day/Overnight events not permitted under significant risk (orange) protocol, so no testing is required.
Sanitization	Sanitization protocol for all communal shared areas and frequently touched surfaces + shared equipment between uses.	Sanitization protocol for all communal shared areas and frequently touched surfaces + shared equipment between uses.	Sanitization protocol for all communal shared areas and frequently touched surfaces + shared equipment between uses.
Spectators <i>Sideline observers (e.g., family, support staff)</i>	Permitted per local authority regulations. Separation from participants as much as possible.	Limited. Must be separated from athletes and not attend participant areas if unvaccinated.	Limited. Must be separated from athletes and not attend participant areas.
Meals	No restrictions on meals.	Recommend no self-serve buffet meals. Participants should bring own waterbottles. Stagger mealtimes and dining groups as much as possible.	Participants bring their own meals and water bottles and/or pick-up only. Stagger mealtimes and dining groups.
Ceremonies	Follow size restrictions, venue options and risk mitigation guidance per above.	Follow size restrictions, venue options and risk mitigation guidance per above.	Follow size restrictions, venue options and risk mitigation guidance per above. Find alternatives to placing medals around the athletes’ necks to maintain distancing.
Healthy Athletes <i>See additional HA guidance for discipline-specific precautions.</i>	Follow size restrictions, venue options and risk mitigation guidance per above.	Follow size restrictions, venue options and risk mitigation guidance per above.	Follow size restrictions, venue options and risk mitigation guidance per above.
Young Athletes <i>See additional YA guidance for discipline-specific precautions.</i>	Children and unvaccinated coaches and volunteers should wear masks. Distancing and outdoor activities are highly encouraged.	Children and ALL coaches and volunteers should wear masks. Distancing and outdoor activities are highly encouraged.	Children and ALL coaches and volunteers should wear masks. Distancing and outdoor activities are highly encouraged.

NOTE: In all levels, and under “Stay at Home” Orders, virtual activities should be offered to those individuals who may be unable to attend in-person. For all participants who are unable to comply with this guidance, the individual’s circumstances should be assessed, and alternative accommodations should be offered.