



Weekly Update – April 21, 2021

Team USA Community –

With 92 days remaining until the start of the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 – and 124 until the Paralympic Games – we have an important update to share regarding vaccination plans for the Team USA delegation.

Following a thorough, creative and focused process that explored potential collaboration with a variety of national vendors, the USOPC has determined that local community resources offer the most viable solution to procure and deliver the COVID-19 vaccine to the Team USA delegation in the most effective and efficient way possible. Utilizing local resources will allow athletes and staff to customize vaccination timelines according to their training, preparation and competition schedules, offering the most conducive pathway for vaccination.

With COVID-19 vaccines now widely available across the country and open to all individuals ages 16 and older, the USOPC is encouraging all Team USA athletes and those who support them on the road to Tokyo to use their state system to access the vaccine locally wherever they live.

Click [here](#) for a list of vaccination locations in your area and more information on how to schedule an appointment. For support in sourcing local vaccination resources, please contact a USOPC health care navigator at (800) 933-4473, Ext. 2 or athletehealthcare@usopc.org.

As a reminder, all athletes and delegation members traveling to the Games will be required to produce a negative COVID-19 test result within 72 hours of their departure to Japan. Presently, all COVID-19 tests will need to be administered at a pre-approved location by the Japanese government. The USOPC is working diligently to develop a domestic testing process for the Team USA delegation.

Regardless of qualification or accreditation, if you test positive for COVID-19 in your pre-departure test, you will not be allowed by the Japanese government to enter Japan. As such, it is imperative to not become infected with COVID-19 in the 90 days leading up to the Games since you can continue to produce positive tests up to 90 days post-diagnosis. To reduce your risk of becoming infected, we implore all Team USA athletes, coaches and support staff to get vaccinated as soon as possible.

Additionally, all individuals – including those who are fully vaccinated – are strongly encouraged to comply with standard COVID-19 prevention measures, including physical distancing, wearing a face mask, not touching your face, washing your hands, and avoiding public locations where you are exposed to large numbers of people.

Thank you for continuing to prioritize your health, and for your ongoing support to keep our Olympic and Paralympic community safe and well. We will continue to work with the Tokyo Organizing Committee, International Olympic Committee and International Paralympic Committee to seek further clarification on entry requirements into Japan, and to ensure a positive experience for all Games participants.

For additional resources and information related to COVID-19, please visit TeamUSA.org/coronavirus.

Sincerely,
USOPC COVID-19 Working Group

★ Medical

- Worldwide: 142 million cases and 3 million deaths.
- U.S.: 31.7 million cases and 567,000 deaths.
 - There were 70,355 new cases and 483 deaths on April 19.
 - California: 6 cases per 100,000 people (San Diego County: 6.6 cases per 100K)
 - Colorado: 28.5 cases per 100,000 people (El Paso County: 29.3 cases per 100K)
 - New York: 30.5 cases per 100,000 people (Essex County: 8.1 cases per 100K)
 - Utah: 12.8 cases per 100,000 people (Summit County: 14.9 cases per 100K)

Vaccination Updates:

- All individuals ages 16 and older are now eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine in the United States.
- Based on the [New York Times tracker](#), 26% of the population has completed the vaccination series with 40% of the population at least partially vaccinated.
- Distribution of the [Johnson & Johnson vaccine](#) continues to be halted due to a rare blood-clotting disorder that emerged in six recipients out of the several million doses administered. The disorder appears to impact younger female recipients. While these cases are extremely rare, individuals who have received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine within the last two weeks should be alert to developing symptoms – including severe headache, abdominal or leg pain, blurred vision, losing consciousness, weakness in an arm or leg, seizure or coma – and contact their health care provider with any concerns.
- Pfizer has [reported](#) new data, which could open the vaccine to individuals ages 12 and older. The data has been submitted to the FDA and is under review.

Colorado COVID Dial Framework. The State of Colorado is no longer using the COVID dial framework and letting each county manage their own restrictions. [El Paso County](#) will not implement a local dial or any additional restrictions beyond what the state has implemented.

- The only capacity restrictions are for seated outdoor events that are ticketed and exceed 30,000 square feet. Additionally, indoor events with a capacity of 100-500 patrons must mandate six-foot physical distancing measures, and events with more than 500 patrons must obtain a variance.
- Despite the easing of COVID-19 restrictions, due to the high prevalence of COVID-19 in El Paso County and the significant ramifications associated with developing a COVID-19 infection, we strongly urge all athletes and staff in Colorado Springs to continue following all COVID-19 prevention measures outlined in the [USOPC Re-entry Playbook](#), including wearing a face mask (per the state mandate, which is still in effect), washing your hands, not touching your face, and avoiding crowded locations.

★ Domestic Policies & Travel

CDC Travel Recommendations. The CDC is recommending the following [travel guidelines](#) for fully vaccinated individuals:

- Domestic travel: Fully vaccinated individuals may resume domestic travel and do not need to get tested before or after travel, or self-quarantine after travel.
- International travel: Fully vaccinated individuals do not need to get tested before leaving the United States (*unless required by the destination*) or self-quarantine after arriving back in the United States. However, they must take a COVID-19 test within 72 hours of returning to the U.S. and test again on Days 3-5 after their return.

- All travelers – including those who are fully vaccinated – should still comply with standard mitigation measures while traveling (i.e. wearing masks, physical distancing, etc.).

Travel Restrictions. Please continue to monitor the [COVID-19 International Travel Policy Overview](#) for updates across Team USA's most common destinations.

- The U.S. Department of State intends to update its travel advisories this week and approximately 80% of countries worldwide will soon be marked as Level 4: Do Not Travel. This is the State Department's highest warning level. Note that this change is being made to more closely align the advisory system with information with the CDC and does not imply a reassessment of the current health situation in the respective countries. In addition, the new levels will account logistical factors, such as the ability to test in these countries and travel restrictions for U.S. citizens.
- If any travelers have recently recovered from COVID-19 and cannot yet produce a negative test, please contact [Jen Gallagher](#) with USOPC government relations at least 10 business days before travel.

Inbound Travel Waivers. To date, the USOPC has supported the clearance of nearly 3,800 individuals representing 25 National Governing Bodies and seven international federations for inbound travel to the United States – including more than 500 individuals for the IIHF World U18 Championship, set for April 26-May 6 in Frisco, Texas. The majority of requests for inbound travel have come from Great Britain, France, Germany and Italy, with Brazil reporting the most of any non-European nation.

As previously shared, U.S. Customs and Border Protection requires that some inbound travelers apply for a 212(f) National Interest Exemption Waiver prior to entry to the United States.

- Please note that U.S. citizens and long-term residents do not need a 212(f) waiver. This waiver requirement applies to foreign citizens who have recently been in, or recently transited through, Brazil, China, Iran, South Africa, and several European countries.
- For requests, please submit a one-page document describing the COVID-19 protocols for the event, including details regarding efforts to test and isolate. The purpose of the trip must relate to the NGB/event organizer. The COVID-19 documentation must include the CDC's most recent language about vaccinated travel, which can be found [here](#).
- At this time, determination of a waiver's validity length (either 30-day, single-entry, or one year, multiple-entry) is decided on a case-by-case basis by U.S. Customs and Border Protection.
 - Please denote the specific role of staff in the "Role" column of the waiver request spreadsheet. U.S. Customs and Border Protection will not issue a waiver for an individual listed as "Staff," "Essential Staff" or "Support Staff."
 - Please identify for each traveler if they will be in the U.S. for four weeks or longer.
 - Please submit all relevant materials to [Nick Lowenthal](#) at least 7-10 days ahead of the date of travel.

Visas – Foreign Citizens Traveling to the U.S. The State Department is in the process of a phased resumption of visa services. Consular operations vary by post, and applicants should monitor embassy and consulate websites for updates on the availability of visa appointments.

- Many consulates continue to operate at reduced capacity, and applicants should expect significant delays in obtaining visa appointments as operations gradually resume. NGBs should continue to consult the inbound travel team before planning international events.

Athlete Ombuds Support. The Office of the Athletes Ombuds is working directly with athletes who are experiencing challenges while traveling abroad and returning from competitions. For athletes seeking independent and confidential advice, please contact ombudsman@usathlete.org.

★ Games & Trials

Games Playbooks. The next version of the Playbook for Athletes and Officials is scheduled to be published by Tokyo 2020, the IOC and the IPC on April 28.

IPC Hospitality Program. The International Paralympic Committee announced this week that the IPC Hospitality Program and its associated credentials are cancelled for the Paralympic Games in Tokyo. G accreditations remain intact.

Vaccine Passport. A national-level swimming meet in the United States is implementing a vaccine passport method, which will allow individuals who have received their full vaccination series at least two weeks prior to the event to bypass the five-day quarantine upon arrival to the competition.

★ Training Centers & Facilities

OPTC COVID-19 Testing Program. Red and White Tier individuals began the COVID-19 Testing Program at the Colorado Springs Olympic & Paralympic Training Center last week due to community prevalence of the virus exceeding 25 cases per 100,000 on a seven-day rolling average. To date, there have been no positive test results.

With training camps resuming in full swing, the CSOPTC will be close to full accommodation capacity. All participants who train or work at an OPTC are required to participate in the testing program, and all individuals have been assigned to one of three tiers (red, white and blue) based on their role and responsibility.

As cases continue to exceed the threshold in El Paso County, the CSOPTC will continue mandatory weekly testing each Monday for everyone in the red and white tiers. For athletes whose NGBs have opted into the daily testing program, the CSOPTC will continue testing Monday through Saturday.