

DOWNTOWN LITTLE LEAGUE SUMMER 2020 GUIDANCE + COVID-19 FAQ

Downtown Little League and the Battery Park City Authority are jointly committed to meeting safety standards for players to participate in baseball and softball on the Battery Park City Ballfields in 2020. Our goal is to create a safe environment in which children can play, and also to protect our volunteer coaches and DLL families. This applies to tournament and intraleague participation.

The responses below are designed to answer our community's most pressing questions as we aim to maximize safety - and minimize risk - to the best of our abilities. For further information, please [email DLL](#) and/or consult guidelines from the [New York State Department of Health](#), the [Centers for Disease Control](#) and [Little League International](#).

First, please note that, as we work to restart play, only pre-registered players and coaches will be able to participate in activities on the field i.e. drop-ins will not be allowed. FYI that this also applies to teams from other leagues that could play at BPC in interleague play.

Second, the BPCA and DLL are jointly responsible for the monitoring and enforcing of safety rules at the field and signage will soon be displayed throughout the Ballfields as a reminder to maintain social distance, etc. Players, coaches, or spectators who are not in compliance with the guidelines below may be asked to leave the premises.

1. WHAT IS BEING DONE TO KEEP THE BPC BALLFIELDS SAFE?

All surfaces and common areas, including dugouts, are sanitized by BPCA staff on a daily basis, in accordance with CDC guidelines. Bathrooms are cleaned and sanitized three times daily and fully equipped with soap, paper towels and water.

Also, hand sanitizer will be available in every dugout and in the batting cage area and participants will be frequently encouraged to wash and/or sanitize their hands.

2. DO I NEED TO TAKE ANY PRECAUTIONS BEFORE COMING TO THE BALLFIELDS?

Yes. First, if a participant, coach, or spectator doesn't feel well in advance of activities and/or their body temperature is 100.4 degrees or higher, they should not come to the Ballfields.

Besides elevated body temperature, other potential red flags include a cough or chills, muscle pain, shortness of breath, sore throat or loss of taste or smell.

3. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE ENTER THE BALLFIELDS?

DLL will measure body temperature of players, coaches, volunteers and spectators prior to practices, games, and other activities, and will log and track such data for each person. **If an individual's temperature is below 100.4 degrees, they are cleared to participate in that**

day's activities.

We will also ask basic questions (e.g. "Are you experiencing shortness of breath, a sore throat or a loss of sense of smell?") to ensure everyone's fitness to enter the Ballfields.

Temperature checks will be performed at the bottom of the ramp at either the north or south end of the field (or both ramps, depending upon whether DLL is using both fields). We thank everyone for being patient and ask all to please maintain appropriate social-distancing as they wait to be screened.

For timing's sake, we ask people to arrive at least 15 minutes in advance of their scheduled activity to ensure that the activity begins on time. Anyone that departs after being screened will be re-screened upon returning.

As noted above, if someone doesn't feel well in advance of activities, they should not come to the BPC Ballfields at all.

4. IS A MASK REQUIRED AT THE BALLFIELDS?

Yes, players, coaches and spectators are required to wear masks or other face coverings - such as [neck gaiters](#) - when at the BPC Ballfields. Players and coaches should wear face coverings in the dugout at all times.

Please click this link for [CDC guidance](#) on cloth face coverings and other types of personal protective equipment (PPE), as well as instructions on use, cleaning, and disinfection.

5. SHOULD WE PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING?

Yes, social distancing of at least six feet should be practiced to the extent it is possible for participants at the BPC Ballfields, including players and coaches in the batting cage and dugout areas. During games and practices, some players and coaches can be in the dugout when their team is batting, and others can stand behind the dugout or along the walkway.

DLL plans to mark such areas as an extension of dugout space, and will also specify a limit of people within the existing dugout space.

Social distancing measures also apply to all spectators.

6. WHAT ABOUT THE SHARING OF EQUIPMENT?

Equipment, including batting gloves, should not to be shared per [Little League International guidelines](#) and players are asked to bring their own baseball mitt, batting helmet and bat. All equipment should be spaced out in the dugout and kept with the individual players, instead of being grouped in a corner for community use.

Catching equipment will be provided by DLL so it does not have to be shared and such gear

will be sanitized by an adult or coach after each use with [Clear Gear](#), a cleaning product used by the NYPD, U.S. Border Patrol and college and pro sports teams. Clear Gear will be provided to each coaching staff.

In addition, game and practice baseballs and softballs will be replaced frequently for safety reasons.

7. WHAT IF A PLAYER OR COACH FEELS ILL DURING A GAME OR PRACTICE?

Any participant who feels ill will be asked to leave the BPC Ballfields immediately. If anyone leaves DLL activities after falling ill, we will notify other participants, coaches, and spectators right away and, if necessary, will terminate the activity.

Repeating a point mentioned above: If someone doesn't feel well in advance of activities, we recommend they do not come to the BPC Ballfields at all.

8. WHAT IF A PARTICIPANT HAS BEEN INFECTED WITH COVID-19? OR WHAT IF SOMEONE IN THE PARTICIPANT'S FAMILY IS CURRENTLY INFECTED WITH COVID-19?

Any individual infected with Covid-19 should refrain from all DLL activities – either as a coach, player or spectator - until they've been cleared by a physician or other medical professional. DLL requires a note from a medical professional, stating that the individual is cleared to play and is not at risk to infect others. We may also request the individual's permission to share the Covid-19 infection information with others that may be at risk.

If someone living at a participant's household is diagnosed with Covid-19 or individuals believe they may have been exposed to the virus, e.g. recently returning to NYC from an area where Covid-19 is spiking, please [contact DLL immediately via email](#) so we can make a determination as to whether or not that participant can engage in DLL activities.

Note that DLL's bias will be to assess such instances with an abundance of caution i.e. It is likely that anyone who may have been exposed to the virus would not be able to engage in DLL activities.

If anyone has any concerns regarding possible Covid-19 transmission, please contact DLL via email at any time and, in urgent situations, call 917.213.5980.

9. I'M A COACH. WHAT ARE MY RESPONSIBILITIES?

All participating DLL coaches and volunteers will be informed of safety procedures before taking the field.

Coaches are responsible for ensuring that their players are adhering to safety guidelines, such as wearing a face covering and maintaining social distance in the dugout area. As noted above, coaches are also required to adhere to these standards personally.

When the game ends, coaches are expected to ensure that the dugout is clean so the next

group that enters doesn't have to touch any belongings or trash left behind. We also ask coaches to ensure that their team – and team families – clear the field immediately after practices and games.

10. WHAT ARE THE ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES FOR SPECTATORS?

First, if it is possible to drop a participant off, particularly for practice, this is preferred in order to reduce traffic at the Ballfields.

We ask that spectators be limited to two people per participant and also follow face-covering and social-distancing guidelines. Spectators should not stand near dugouts as players and coaches will be in that area.

The ideal area for viewing is the walkway running from north to south, specifically those walkway areas that are protected by netting. Spectators can also watch from any of the exterior sidewalks abutting the Ballfields, along Warren, Murray, or West Streets.

Finally, once an activity ends, we ask that all participants and spectators leave the premises ASAP to clear space for other individuals who may be using the fields afterwards.

11. ARE PARTICIPANTS – AND SPECTATORS – ALLOWED TO BRING FOOD AND DRINK?

Per longstanding BPCA policy, food and drink are not allowed at the Ballfields, with the exception of water. Water bottles should not be shared.

12. WHAT ELSE DO I NEED TO KNOW?

DLL is focused on giving participants the best possible experience over the remainder of the summer and we appreciate your patience as we try to get as many children as possible back on the field. Please contact us with any questions and we look forward to seeing you at the Ballfields.