

2021 NYBA COVID-19 Guidelines and Preparedness Plan

Updated May 11, 2021

NYBA is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for all players coaches, parents, spectators and workers (collectively, these persons are referred to as “Patrons”) as well as umpires and field staff (collectively referred to as “employees”)

The following information outlines an example protocol that coaches should follow in alignment with our COVID-19 Preparedness Plan. It should be shared with their players’ families and affirmed at all team activities and as we begin the 2021 season. The NYBA guidelines were created in alignment with the [Safe Play: Back to the Diamond Plan](#) issued April 15, 2021 and most recently updated on May 7, 2021 by MYAS, MBL and MN Softball based on close conversation with MDH and considering CDC guidelines. We will update our guidelines and procedures, if deemed appropriate, as the season goes on based on new recommendations and guidance from state and local officials and MYAS/MBL.

Screening Responsibilities and Reporting Requirements

All NYBA Patrons and Employees must conduct a self-evaluation symptom assessment before coming to the facility for practice, games or work. PLEASE ERR ON THE SIDE OF CAUTION AND STAY HOME IF YOU ARE NOT FEELING 100% OR HAVE **ANY** OF THE FOLLOWING:

- Fever of 99.5 or higher
- New or worsening cough
- Shortness of breath
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Body aches
- Loss of taste or smell
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

If any player or coach is deemed a close contact or tests positive for COVID-19 that individual must notify the NYBA via the [NYBA COVID-19 Reporting form](#).

If an Employee tests positive for COVID-19 then must notify their supervisor to make the appropriate notifications (ie. concessions manager or umpire coordinator).

Positive Cases, Close Contacts & Quarantine Requirements:

A Close contact is deemed as anyone who is within six (6) feet of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 for a total of fifteen (15) minutes or more within a 24 hr period.

If you are deemed a “close contact” you should quarantine and be absent from all baseball activities for 14 days starting the day AFTER the date of contact. There are ways in accordance with [MDH Close Contact Guidelines](#) to reduce close contact quarantine to 7 days (with negative

PCR test on day 5 or later) or 10 days (no symptoms experienced, no test needed). If participants return early, masking and social distancing will be required 100% of practice and games, without exception, through the full 14 days. NYBA will allow Travel, Minors and Rookies League players to follow these reduced guidelines if applicable to your situation. However, if not able/willing to comply with masking and social distance requirements please refrain from baseball activities for the full 14 days. We do ask that Tball and Futures League players quarantine for the full 14 days due to the strain it would put on our volunteer coaches to have to monitor and enforce masking and distancing throughout practice and games, as well as the difficulty children of this age may have adhering to those requirements.

- Exception: Those who are fully vaccinated and/or who have had COVID-19 within the past three (3) months with no new symptoms do not need to quarantine if deemed a close contact
- For outdoor sports, the entire team does not automatically have to be placed on quarantine if a contact occurs. Each case should be considered on a case-by-case basis and take into effect exposure as defined as: direct exposure to respiratory droplets from a positive person; direct physical contact; duration of time within 6 feet of a positive party during non-play activity.
 - For both Travel and In-House Leagues coaches will be contacted when a positive case is reported to determine any close contacts that would have occurred.
 - Rookies and Minors In-House leagues will utilize pods for practices to help minimize and more easily gauge close contacts. For the T-ball and Futures leagues if a positive case is reported the whole team will be deemed a close contact.
- NYBA will notify Patrons and Employees of any positive case in which they may have had close contact. NYBA will also notify opposing teams of positive cases on our team if deemed necessary..

If you test POSITIVE, you should quarantine and be absent from all baseball activities for 10 days starting the day the test was administered. NYBA must be notified as stated above. NYBA will cooperate and comply with all directives of the MDH in the event of a positive case

Quarantine periods are determined in accordance with the [MDH decision tree](#).

IN ALL INSTANCES OF CLOSE CONTACT OR POSITIVE TEST THE PARTICIPANT SHOULD BE SYMPTOM FREE FOR 24 HOURS BEFORE RETURNING TO PLAY.

Practice & Game Guidelines

Social Distancing and Face Coverings**

- Athletes and coaches should maintain a social distance of at least six (6) feet whenever possible, from any other person.

- Coaches - Face coverings are recommended to be worn when not actively participating on the field of play and at least six (6) feet of distance from others can not be maintained. (ie. dugout/bench area, team huddles)
- Athletes - Face coverings are recommended to be worn when not actively participating on the field of play and at least six (6) feet of social distancing can not be maintained. (ie. dugout/bench area, team huddles)
- When there is a play at base or contact of any kind on the field the players should resume social distance as soon as possible upon completion of the play
- During practices, teams should avoid use of the dugouts as to avoid unnecessary close contact situations, instead players and coaches should utilize the fencing in front of the dugout and down the baseline to hang and set their belongings.
- Space will be roped off for use during games. Teams should have a maximum of 4 players in the dugout at a time and others should maintain social distances in the designated area outside of the dugout.
- No touch rule - refrain from high fives, no handshake line or any other physical contact with fellow coaches, opposing coaches, players, umpires or spectators
- During practices, In-House players will only rotate with their own team/pod and will not intermix with any other teams on a shared field.

***Please note that although face coverings are not required, this comes with an increased risk of exposure to COVID-19 and such illnesses. The NYBA Board strongly suggests NYBA Patrons to wear a face covering if at any point they feel they will be at risk of close contact and within six (6) feet of another party. This recommendation includes but is not limited to catchers who are in close contact to batters and umpires as well as players age 12 and up who are playing a base position (ie. 1st, 2nd, 3rd) where there is a possibility of holding a runner on base. We understand each family's situation is unique and encourage Patrons to err on the side of caution and make decisions that reflect what is best for your family and comfort level.*

- Spectators should maintain 6 feet distance from other non-family spectators and maintain twelve (12) feet from the field of competition/participants
 - Spectators are encouraged to wear a face covering if social distances can not be maintained and/or if not vaccinated.
- Umpires are encouraged to officiate from behind the pitcher's mound. If they choose to officiate from behind home plate a face covering will be encouraged when they will be within six (6) feet of distance from the athletes.
 - Umpires should communicate in the pregame meeting what their intention is. Coaches can express any concern at that time. Coaches will communicate with their catchers to gauge the comfort level of them and their families prior to games time.

Hygiene and Disinfecting

NYBA will provide some cleaning and disinfecting items to be used during practice and games.

- Players should provide their own water bottle

- Participants should refrain from touching their face
- No spitting or chewing sunflower seeds, gum, or similar products will be allowed for any Patrons
- At Sechler Park field staff and/or coaches will be responsible for sanitizing the dugout area before play.
- During Travel and Minors League game play, baseballs should be disinfected between innings
- NYBA will do it's best to put systems in place to mitigate risk when using shared equipment, but even with these efforts there will be risk. Players are encouraged to provide their own equipment whenever possible.
 - Hand sanitizing is strongly encouraged during practice and games and batting gloves are encouraged when using shared bats
 - During T-ball and Futures Leagues, parents volunteers will be used to help transfer and disinfect shared equipment between players and help players maintain social distances whenever possible

NYBA Facility Guidelines

- NYBA will do it's best to stagger practice and game times to minimize the overlap of Patrons between practices and games.
 - Travel players and coaches should avoid arriving to the ballpark more than 30 minutes prior to game time
 - All Patrons should enter and leave the facility in a timely fashion and not congregate. If coaches need to meet with their teams they should have their team immediately collect their belongings and do so outside of the field/dugout area so that the next group can enter.
- If open, the Sechler Park concession stand will operate to allow the flow of traffic to adhere to social distancing and discourage congregation around the window
- All NYBA events and/or tournaments will be run in accordance with the [MDH Guidance for Outdoor Venues](#) and other MDH and MYAS Guidelines