



**SOCCER MAINE STATEMENT ON COVID 19 AS IT RELATES TO  
SOCCER MAINE CLUBS AND FALL CLASSIC LEAGUE  
9/15/2021**

Regarding positive COVID cases among players, it is up to the Club to determine whether or not their team or individual players meet the criteria for being deemed a close contact, and therefore not able to participate in an upcoming game. Per the Maine CDC, that criteria is as follows: 15 minutes of contact within 6 feet of a COVID 19 positive player over 24 hours, and within the 48 hour time period prior to the player testing positive or being symptomatic. If the contact was more than 48 hours prior, individuals are not deemed to be close contacts by the CDC and do not need to quarantine.

Further, vaccinated individuals are not required to quarantine, but should get a COVID Test within 3-5 days after exposure and wear a mask when inside.

The Maine CDC, is no longer conducting full scale contact tracing via phone calls; you may or may not receive a phone call from them if you have tested positive or are a close contact, though they do have an online reporting system called Sara Alert - [COVID-19: Contact Tracing | Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) | Airborne Disease Surveillance Epidemiology Program | MeCDC | Maine DHHS](#).

Should you need to postpone a game due to a quarantined team, please note that the opponent must be notified first, then Soccer Maine. Correspondence to Soccer Maine must include the game particulars, i.e., date, game number, opponent, and preferably reschedule date. If the game is your home game, it must be unscheduled in your club account, and if it is the opponent's home game, they must un-schedule it through their club account. Games must be rescheduled as soon as possible, and not pushed off to the end of the season, when it could be impossible to get the game played due to COVID or other factors.

Below is our most recent Return to Play document issued to Clubs in August. We strongly urge you to follow the protocols as outlined below.

Thanks for your diligence and cooperation during this time of uncertainty.



# RETURN TO PLAY PHASE VII

Effective 8/20/2021

## Criteria for Participation in Competition

- Soccer Maine strongly recommends that spectators make every attempt to socially distance by a minimum of 6 feet between family units while outside **and mask if not vaccinated**.
- **We also strongly recommend that players on the sideline physically distance unless all are vaccinated.**
- **Coaches on the sidelines who are vaccinated are not required to be masked. If you are not vaccinated, we strongly recommend that you mask.**
- Participants should use their own equipment and not share equipment. This includes water bottles, towels, shin guards, etc. Game ball is the only shared piece of equipment.

## Clubs

- Distribute protocols to its members and parents.
- Have a communication plan in place for notification of venue requirements if there are any. Teams/Clubs should notify opposing teams/clubs a minimum of one week prior of any restrictions to spectator attendance. Some school facilities may have restrictions in place.
- Have an effective communication plan in place should a team member, coach or manager contract COVID-19. Notify adult leaders, youth and their families if the organization learns of a case that may result in exposure and potential infection to others while at training or a game, while maintaining confidentiality.
- Train and educate all staff to protocols and requirements, including state and local regulations, CDC recommendations and other necessary information. It is the Club's responsibility to see that all coaches, and other staff adhere to these protocols.

## Coaches

- Ensure the health and safety of the Athletes - inquire how the athletes are feeling, and send them home should you believe they act or look ill. Follow all State and Local Health Protocols.
- Ensure all athletes have their individual equipment (ball, water, bag, shin guards, etc.)
- Coach is the only person to handle coach equipment - cones, disk etc.
- We strongly recommend that you **mask if not fully vaccinated**.
- The use of scrimmage vest or pinnies is not recommended at this time.

## Parents

- Ensure child is healthy, check your child's temperature before attending a training session.
- Notify club immediately if your child becomes ill for any reason. This is a requirement.
- Do not assist coach with equipment before or after training.

## Players

- **Players are not required to wear a mask for training or competitions outdoors. If participating in training or games indoors, the venue requirements take precedence, but our recommendation is that you mask.**
- Do not touch or share anyone else's equipment, water, snack or bag.
- No group celebrations, no high 5's, hugs, handshakes etc.

Follow all Maine State and CDC guidelines:

- [Home | Covid-19 \(maine.gov\)](#)
- [Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) | Airborne Disease Surveillance Epidemiology Program | MeCDC | Maine DHHS](#)
- [Maine Center for Disease Control & Prevention | Maine DHHS](#)