



Return to Activity Protocols – Spring 2022

Special Olympics Montana has updated guidance on return to in-person activities based on the recent protocols released by Special Olympics International (SOI) and community transmission rates within the state of Montana. In the event that the state case rate per 100,000 rises above 100, the Return to Activity Protocols will be re-evaluated.

Throughout this document “participants” are defined as all athletes, unified partners, coaches, volunteers, family members, caregivers, staff, or others in attendance of an activity. This guidance is intended for all in- person SOMT activities (e.g., sports practices, competition, coaches training, Young Athletes, Healthy Athletes, Program-hosted UCS activities, Athlete Leadership, volunteer meetings/trainings, etc.). School-hosted activities, third-party and fundraising events are considered separate from this framework and Programs should follow regulations and COVID protocols from their school and local authorities, respectively for those events.

Pre-Event Testing

- Pre-event testing is not required.

Event Size and Venue

- Outdoors – per local authority regulations.
 - Indoors – Less than, or equal to, 100 people.
 - Mixed Indoors/Outdoors – Less than, or equal to, 100 people.
- For questions or advisement about indoor gatherings, please contact the SOMT office.

Forms

- All participants (athletes, unified partners, coaches, team volunteers, and “day of” volunteers) complete the COVID-19 Code of Conduct and the Communicable Disease Waiver.

Operations

- Event organizers must have a COVID point of contact identified.
- Event organizers must have a plan for identifying and isolating individuals with COVID symptoms, contact tracing for the event, and notifying health authorities, per local requirements.

Onsite Screening

- Written confirmation of no symptoms for all participants (athletes, unified partners, coaches, team volunteers, and “day of” volunteers), as well as onsite temperature checks by a trained volunteer to verify that the temperature is not higher than 100.4.

Positive COVID test or previous COVID disease

- Per local authority regulations.
- Participants who test positive for COVID-19 must contact the Special Olympics Montana state office and head coach or Local Program Coordinator, as soon as possible. No participation within

10 days of a COVID-19 positive test and 7 days of any symptoms. Athletes and unified partners must provide written medical clearance from their health care provider or submit a whole new medical before returning to activities.

Masking

- Outdoor Events – Masks are recommended for outdoor events when unable to physically distance.
- Indoor Events – Masks are required for all participants (athletes, unified partners, coaches, team volunteers, and “day of” volunteers).
- Mixed Indoor/Outdoor Events - Please contact the SOMT office for advisement.

Transportation

- Private transportation encouraged as much as possible.
- Masking required for all on any transportation organized by Special Olympics.

Travel

- Not permitted outside of Montana.
- Teams are encouraged to follow the pre-screening procedures for all participants, before boarding transportation organized by Special Olympics, if possible.
 - Temperature checks and completion of COVID-19 tracking forms prior to boarding the bus.
 - Hand sanitizing prior to boarding the bus.
 - Facemasks must be worn at all times.
 - No food or beverages are allowed to be consumed while on the bus, to reduce time without masks on while in transit.

Accommodations

- Overnight events are not permitted.

Multi-Day Events

- Multi-day events, with overnight stays, are not permitted.

Sanitization

- Sanitization protocol for all communal shared areas and frequently touched surfaces, plus shared equipment between uses.

Spectators

- Permitted, but a designated spectator seating area must be provided. Spectators must be separated from athletes and are not allowed in the athlete competition area.
- Signage with Covid precautions should be posted in designated spectator areas.

Meals

- Participants bring their own meals and water bottles, or pre-packaged meals and bottled water may be provided.
- No self-serve buffets are allowed.

Ceremonies

- Follow size restrictions, venue options, and risk mitigation guidance per above.

Social Gatherings

- For advisement on social gatherings, please contact the SOMT office, as they will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

Healthy Athletes

- Follow size restrictions, venue options, and risk mitigation guidance per above.

Young Athletes

- Young Athlete programs are to follow school COVID-19 guidelines.