

# West Valley Little League Fall Baseball COVID Mitigation Protocol and Guidelines

Covid-19 COVID Mitigation VERSION 4 (as of 2/1/202)

## **Social Distancing Guidelines for Players and Coaches:**

Use of dugouts is approved; however, Coaches are asked to maintain as much Social Distancing, six feet where possible. WVLL recommends that Dugouts for practices are not to be used, there is plenty of space outside the dugout. The dugouts at Duck Alley are small, Coaches should remove themselves from the dugouts and leave that space for the players or simply not use the dugouts at all. Team Gear can be organized and hanging off the hangers in the dugouts or they can hang off the fence outside the dugout (farthest down the foul line.) If a player's parents do not want their player in the dugout Coaches will work to accommodate (player would effectively be on the outside of the foul/bullpen fencing.) Ultimately, coaches will be responsible to monitor and manage player space, and adhere the following recommendations:

- Discuss distancing and safety at the start of each game.
- No sharing of helmets, gloves, batting gloves, catchers gear etc.
- No contact celebrations, e.g. no high-fives, no handshakes, etc.
- No sunflower seeds or spitting.
- Players to tip caps to the other team at game ending rather than traditional handshake.
- All garbage picked up immediately after the game by coaches and players.

## **Spectator Attendance:**

All spectators should follow best social distancing practices — stay six feet away from individuals outside their household; recommended to wear a cloth face covering if they find themselves in close quarters ie: waiting in the snack shack line, behind backstops, and stands; avoid direct hand or other contact with players/managers/coaches. No sunflower seeds or spitting.

A spectator with any of the following conditions should not attend a practice or game until evaluated by a medical provider and given clearance to do so:

- Active COVID-19 infection
- Known direct contact with an individual testing positive for COVID-19
- Fever
- Cough

Those at higher risk for severe disease should consider consultation with their medical provider before attending a game and should ensure the strictest adherence to

guidelines regarding face coverings, distancing, and handwashing. Such groups include:

- Those with a serious underlying medical condition, including heart disease, morbid obesity, diabetes, lung disease, immunocompromise, chronic kidney disease, and chronic lung disease.
- Those currently residing in a nursing home or long-term care facility
- Those over 65

## **Clean and Disinfect Shared Equipment and Surfaces:**

- Clean AND disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily and in between all facility uses, including practices and games. This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, facility equipment, dugouts, toilets, faucets, and sinks.
- Hand Sanitizer for players and coaches at the beginning and end of practice, as provided by the league.

## **Concession Stands:**

- The League will follow local and/or state guidance when operating food or concession sales.
- Masks are recommended when waiting in line to purchase at the snack shack.

## **Exposure Situations:**

**Exhibiting COVID-19 Symptom** (*I think or know I had COVID-19, and I had symptoms*)s

If a volunteer, player, coach or umpire exhibits COVID-19 symptoms (ie. fever, cough, shortness of breath or any other of the systems identified above), they must alert their coach and contact their Local League's Safety Officer. If the symptoms develop during a League Activity, the volunteer, player or coach will be sent home immediately. If the systems develop while at home, the volunteer, player or coach must remain at home.

You may resume participation in League activities after:

- 3 days with no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and
- Symptoms improved and
- 10 days since symptoms first appeared

Depending on your healthcare provider's advice and availability of testing, you might get tested to see if you still have COVID-19. If you will be tested, you can be around others when you have no fever, symptoms have improved, and you receive two negative test results in a row, at least 24 hours apart. Under this last condition, the League will require the individual to provide documentation clearing their return to League Activities.

### **Close Contact with a Tested Positive COVID-19 Individual:**

A volunteer, player or coach that have come into close contact with a confirmed-positive COVID-19 individual (volunteer, coach, teammate, family member or otherwise) will be directed to cease participation in League Activities (and advised to self-quarantine) for 14 days from the last known date of close contact with the carrier per CDC guidelines.

Close contact is defined as within six feet for about 10 minutes.

If the League learns that a volunteer, player, coach or umpire has tested positive, the League will conduct an investigation to determine the active participants (volunteers, players, managers, coaches and umpires) that may have had close contact with the confirmed-positive individual in the prior 14 days. Those individuals will be notified and directed to cease participation in League Activities (and advised to self-quarantine) for 14 days from the last date of close contact with the carrier.

If a volunteer, player or coach learns that he has come into close contact with a confirmed-positive individual outside of League Activities, the individual must alert their Local League Safety Officer and their coach (if applicable) of the date of the close contact. They are directed to cease participation in League Activities (and advised to self-quarantine) for 14 days from the last date of close contact with the carrier.

Should a participant test positive or exhibit symptoms during the 14-day period the resumption of league activity shall be as outlined under "Exhibiting COVID-19 Symptoms" above.

### **Tests Positive for COVID-19 With No Symptoms**

An individual that tests positive for COVID-19 will be directed to be self-quarantine per CDC guidelines and stay away from the League and all fields and facilities. They are directed to notify their Local League Safety Officer of the date of the positive test. The league will conduct an investigation and proceed as outlined in the "Close Contact with a Tested Positive COVID-19 Individual" section. The individual that tested positive are directed to cease participation in League Activities (and advised to self-quarantine).

Those that test positive and are symptom free may return to League Activities when:

- At least ten (10) days have passed since the date of the positive test and have not had a subsequent illness

Depending on the individual's healthcare provider's advice and availability of testing, individuals may still be required to get tested to see if they still have COVID-19. In this case, the individual may return to League Activities after they receive two negative test results in a row, at least 24 hours apart. Under this last condition, the League will require the individual to provide documentation clearing their return to League Activities.

### **Tests Positive for COVID-19 With Symptoms:**

An individual that tests positive with symptoms are directed cease participation in League Activity and to care for themselves at home. They may return to League Activities when:

- They have no fever for 72 hours (3 full days) without the use of fever-reducing medication and
- other symptoms have improved and
- at least ten (10) full days have passed since the symptoms first appeared

Depending on the individual's healthcare provider's advice and availability of testing, individuals may still be required to get tested to see if they still have COVID-19. In this case, the individual may return to League Activities after they receive two negative test results in a row, at least 24 hours apart. Under this last condition, the League will require the individual to provide documentation clearing their return to League Activities.

### **Game Cancellations Due to Exposure Situations:**

The League reserves the right to cancel and/or reschedule game(s) due to a team being limited from playing due to quarantine or similarly related COVID-19 issues. The League will make every effort to reschedule games but cannot guarantee the number of games being played by each team if a significant amount of time may be missed by a team.

### **Best Practices per Little League International:**

We strongly encourage all Little League managers, coaches, umpires, league officials, and families to review these guidelines.

<https://www.littleleague.org/player-safety/coronavirus-update/season-resumption-guide/best-practices/organizing-playing-watching-games/>

We will continue to update these comprehensive resources to provide additional best practices guidance as information is further developed or provided from state and local officials around COVID-19 mitigation.

