

# Local Program Covid-19 Protocol

We have worked with Special Olympics Inc., the State of New Hampshire and our legal counsel to put together a protocol to keep everyone as safe as possible. We will continue to update Local Program Coordinators as information becomes available. Guidelines set forth in this Protocol are subject to change based on SOI/NH state guidelines.

SONH is not mandating vaccination at this time for athletes or Local Program volunteers. SONH is strongly encouraging individuals that are able, to get vaccinated. Additionally, we strongly encourage individuals to follow proper safety and hygiene protocols detailed below at all times.

If a Local Program would like to implement a mask mandate in addition to the Local Program COVID protocols in place, we support that. Local Programs cannot mandate vaccination for their athletes or Local Program volunteers.

## Section 1-Before any event, meeting or gathering:

- Every athlete and Local Program Volunteer must have a signed [Communicable Disease Waiver](#) on file with SONH. Send completed forms to [JessicaM@sonh.org](mailto:JessicaM@sonh.org).
- Identify a Covid point of contact, who will:
  - Make sure protocol set forth is being followed.
  - Keep record of every athlete, volunteer and staff who attend all gatherings
  - If questions arise, contact **Mark Ericson at (603) 498-5186 or [MarkE@sonh.org](mailto:MarkE@sonh.org)**.
- Remind everyone that:
  - No one may attend any gathering within 10 days of COVID positive test and 7 days of any symptoms.
  - Athletes must receive medical clearance before participating in sport.

## Section 2-During any event, meeting or gathering:

- **All items in Section 1 above plus:**
- Logistics
  - Social distance when possible, outside of sports activities, especially in indoor spaces.
  - Follow size restrictions and safety protocols of venue (if any).
  - In a conference room setting, the number of participants should be no greater than 60% of the room's full capacity to allow for adequate social distancing.
- Food and Beverages
  - Participants should bring their own water bottle/drinks to activities. Use labels and no sharing of items.
  - If food is being consumed, mealtimes should be staggered to limit the number of people eating at once and social distancing is encouraged.
  - No self-serve buffet meals. Use individually wrapped items when possible.
- Sanitize
  - Alcohol-based hand sanitizer should be available for folks as needed upon arrival and through the gathering.
- Masks
  - Disposable masks should be available for people as needed.
  - Face masks are highly recommended indoors in public by the CDC to reduce the risk of being infected with the Delta variant and possibly spreading it to others.
  - Unvaccinated individuals must wear masks at all times, except during rigorous activity/competition.
- Signage
  - Post the three signs below at all gatherings. If you need copies mailed to you, contact [Pam Langille](#).
  - Signs: (1) [Symptoms](#), (2) [Unvaccinated](#), (3) [Distancing & Masks](#)
- Transportation
  - Individual athlete transportation encouraged as much as possible.
  - When carpooling masks must be worn at all times unless all riders are vaccinated.

## **Section 3-Training, practice and competition:**

- **All items in Sections 1 and 2 above plus:**
- Logistics
  - Separate spectators from participants as much as possible.
- Sanitize
  - Common areas and equipment should be sanitized before and after use.
- Beverages
  - Participants should bring their own water bottle/drinks to activities. Use labels and no sharing of items.

## **Section 4-Fundraising Events & 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Fundraising Events:**

- Fundraisers have many unique factors. If a Local Program wishes to conduct any fundraisers or is invited to be part of a 3<sup>rd</sup> Party fundraising event, please consult with SONH staff so that any events can be assessed individually. Please email Mark Ericson at [MarkE@sonh.org](mailto:MarkE@sonh.org) to discuss.

## **Call us right away if:**

- You have any questions or concerns.
- Someone in your Program is diagnosed with COVID or must quarantine as a result of a close contact.

***Reach out to Mark Ericson at (603) 498-5186 or [MarkE@sonh.org](mailto:MarkE@sonh.org)***