After our first week of return to activity, many of you asked some questions that needed clarification from the governor’s office. Below are this week’s updates/clarifications concerning Return to Activity, (RTA), protocols and COVID Safe Practices, (CSP). We updated the NMYSA RTA protocols to reflect the changes below. The great new is that participation restrictions have been lifted for Cibola, San Juan and McKinley counties so all our members affiliate may begin small group trainings once they meet the RTA and CSP.

**May 29, 2020 Q & A -** (Question in black, Governor’s office answers in red)

1. Coaches were instructed to get COVID tested within 72 hours of participating.  Every coach that participated did get tested, (with negative results), but in many situations, test results were not received within 72 hrs.  As such, clubs are concerned that they may not be compliant because they begin their small group trainings a few days after testing, but as soon as possible from receiving tests results.  In some cases, coaches received results late last week, but due to the long weekend, did not start training until Tuesday, (outside of the 72hrs. window).  It seems that the 72 hrs. timeframe is not realistic, in some cases, when put to the test.  We are asking clubs to do their best to adhere to that window, but I am wondering from the State’s prospective if there is some leeway?

**I think your guidance that they do their best to adhere to the 72 hours is appropriate.**

2. We have situations where coaches have gone to be tested but were turned away because they are considered non-essential.  Are there specific testing sites where non-essential volunteers or employees can be tested for “Return to Activity”?

**Coaches should contact their regional department of Health Public Health Office (PHO) regarding testing. Tests conducted by the state are billed to the individual’s insurance however there aren’t any out of pocket for the individuals. If they don’t have insurance the test should be free. The PHO can provide additional information on this. Private entities that are conducting testing do charge.**

3. We had a coach that went for testing at the Nextcare site on Menaul but was turned away because he does not have insurance.  Are there test sites that have free testing for coaches without insurance?

**Directing people to the PHOs is the best way to resolve this. PHOs do not turn away people who want to be tested.**

4. Groups that did begin training were able to observe social distancing with the training activities they ran, (5-1) ratios.  Many coaches communicated thoughts that they could safely increase numbers, (10-1 ratio or higher) and still observe CSP and wanted this put this forth for consideration by the State’s committee.

**As the public health order changes and allows for group sizes to increase, the group sizes could be modified accordingly.**

5. Many coaches expressed concerns about players wearing masks.  Not many players were able to tolerate the masks while running/training.  There is growing concern that it may be more dangerous for players to wear masks during training.  Can consideration be made to allow players to forego wearing mask during training only, so long as they can adhere to the 6ft or more distancing?

**We have revised guidance for masks. I will send the full document once it is formatted however a brief summary is listed below. I would say that coaches should wear masks and kids should wear them when they aren’t exercising.**

**In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, masks are required of adults in public settings and recommended for children three and older, wih exceptions for eating, drinking, exercising and medical requirements. The general principle is that masks are used to limit potential harm to others by helping reduce their risk of infection (and they may have a secondary benefit to the wearer as well).**

6. We have some coaches that have taken the antibody test and are asking if they can forgo the COVID test if they have tested positive to the COVID antibody test?

**Research indicates that antibody tests are not reliable enough to be used for this kind of determination, especially since our prevalence of disease is still quite low in N.M.**

Another question asked was answered on the State’s posted Q & A. What is the definition of local geographic area? A. Participants and staff should avoid traveling great distances to attend a program. Individuals may travel outside of their county of residence if they live in within 50 miles of the program location.

**May 19, 2020 Q & A -** (Questions in black, Governor’s office answers in red)

The CSP indicates, “Temperatures of children and staff should be taken daily with a touches  **[this should be “touchless” if done at the facility]**thermometer”.  It does not say who needs to take the daily temperatures though.  In our draft “Return to Activity” protocols, we have parents taking kids temperatures and coaches taking their own on a daily basis before training. Is this acceptable/compliant to include in our policy? **[yes]**

2. The CSP says, “Staff and students/campers should wear masks.”  Our "Return to Activity" policy says coaches must wear masks and youth players are to wear mask before and after training but not during.  The Governor mentioned that it was OK not to wear a mask during exercise, so we want to make sure it is OK to publish that in our protocols? **[given the combination of kids being superspreaders and being together in a group, suggest everyone wearing masks.]**

3. We understand that for now, all coaches need to be COVID tested, (with negative results), before they can participate/begin the small group trainings, (5-1) ratio.  As such, will make sure that is included in the NMYSA’s protocols. ​

1. Another question came up concerning frequency of tests as well as how long before the activity begins should a test be taken?  **[I would suggest within 72 hours and if they have ANY symptoms they should not show up.]**We have a coach that was tested May 4, 2020, with a negative result.  Should they be tested again before training this week? **[Probably]**

2. Also, there was a question about coaches that have teams of 15 that would be training 5 at a time but each group back to back, it that acceptable? **[Sure.  Have different groups avoid each other. Back to back suggests contact between groups, which we do not want.]** Potentially, we could have coaches with two teams, so that could be 15 on Monday in groups of 5 in three different time slots, then maybe the next team on Tuesday in groups of 5 in three different time slots. **{OK}​**

The updated NMYSA Return to Activity protocols are attached! It is imperative that Leagues/Clubs understand that **“just because you can, doesn’t mean you should”**. Parents have an option whether their child participates, and leagues/clubs may have other consideration before they choose to open. Before opening, please make sure you comply with the NMSYA protocols, CSP and CDC recommendation. trainings.