



# ONGOING COVID-19 GUIDELINES

*Updated 8/05/2021*

## **INTRODUCTION**

The intent of this document is to communicate TYSA's on-going efforts to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic for all of our youth soccer programs: Recreational, Academy (including Academy Jr, unless specified) and Select.

These guidelines will be continuously reviewed to make sure that we are providing a safe environment for our TYSA Family. While TYSA has developed its own set of guidelines, we will continue to follow guidelines and mandates set forth by the CDC, Georgia Governor Executive Order, Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) as well as our soccer governing bodies: Georgia Soccer, SCCL, and US Club Soccer.

## **Facility Guidelines for Practices and Matches**

TYSA operates out of three locations: Henderson Park, Livsey and Granite. The health and safety of our players remains our top priority. We will continue to use many of our past guidelines as they proved to be quite successful. We have condensed them here to make them easier to follow. Please respect these guidelines and your fellow TYSA members. Our guidelines will be shared with visiting teams and clubs. TYSA encourages all staff, volunteers, families, and players to be vaccinated if they are eligible. As always, please refer to your physician if you have questions.

## **COACHES**

- Coaches are responsible for their players' adherence to the Player guidelines.

## **PLAYERS**

- Players should bring their own water bottle and, of course, not share with others.
- Players should allow for adequate distancing when not playing.
- Masks are optional, however US Soccer does not encourage mask to be worn during play.
- There will be no handshakes or high-fives after the games but other safe, creative signs of player/team respect are encouraged!

## **SPECTATORS**

- Please practice physical distancing when at the fields when possible.
- We will continue to encourage limited practice spectatorship to reduce congestion between practices.

## **MISC**

- Being vaccinated or having recently recovered from COVID-19 (and having antibodies) will not absolve you from following the TYSA Guidelines.
- When visiting other clubs, TYSA teams should follow the home clubs' COVID-19 Guidelines.
- Players should not attend practices or matches if they have a fever or are feeling sick.
- Academy/Select families are encouraged to use the Health Check feature in TeamSnap.
- Players and family members showing signs of COVID-19 or test positive for COVID-19 should refer to the Returning to Play policies in the section below.

## Returning to Play after Positive Coronavirus Testing or Close Contact

Please note that the following guidelines have changed since the Fall 2020 season to reflect changes to the DPH's [Return to Work Guidance](#) and [Quarantine Guidance](#).

### **Symptomatic people with a Positive Coronavirus Test Result:**

If a player or coach tests positive and they are symptomatic, then they cannot return to play until:

- At least 10 days after their first symptoms appeared.
- At least 24 hours since last fever with no fever reducing medications.
- Improved symptoms (e.g. cough, shortness of breath).

### **Asymptomatic people with a Positive Coronavirus Test Result:**

If a player or coach tests positive but do not have symptoms, then they cannot return to play until:

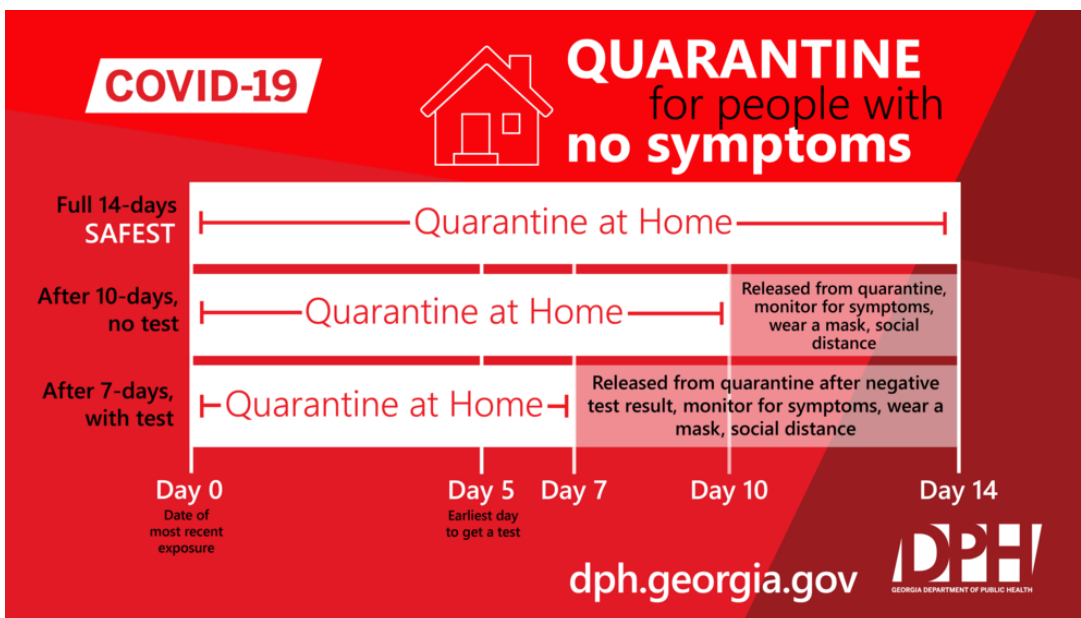
- At least 10 days have passed since the positive laboratory test and the person remains asymptomatic.
- If symptoms develop then the player/coach should follow the Symptomatic guidelines above.
- Note: A follow-up negative test would not shorten the return time for the player or coach.

### **Exposure to someone who tested positive for the Coronavirus:**

If a player or coach has been in **close contact** with a person who has tested positive for the coronavirus, then the quarantine timeline begins from the date of the last known contact with the infected person. The DPH defines close contact as:

- Living with someone or caring for someone who tested positive for the coronavirus.
- Being within 6 ft of someone who tested positive for a minimum of 15 minutes.
- Having contact with secretions from someone who tested positive (e.g. coughed on, kissed, sharing utensils, etc.)

In the event of close contact exposure, please refer to the below DPH guidelines for returning to play:



Per the DPH recommendations, if the close contact is someone in the player/coach household, they may return to play in 10 days from either the affected persons positive tests, or the affected persons date of symptom onset. For example, if the player's parent began having symptoms on Monday, but didn't test until Wednesday

(and received a positive test result), then the player may return in 10 days from Monday. This is regardless if the player has tested negative because family members are considered to have true exposure.

For all other close contact situations where the player/coach do not live with the affected person, the player/coach is allowed to return in 10 days from the date of their last know exposure. However, if the family chooses to have their child tested, then they can return sooner (7 days) if the test result is negative AND they remain symptom free. **TYSA will not ask nor require players to obtain a Coronavirus test. TYSA will not pay for any player to be tested.**

Staff Coaches (academy/select only) may be required to test should they have a close contact situation and TYSA may pay for their coronavirus testing.

Per the DPH recommendations, Coaches (and players if their families choose so) should not get tested any sooner than 5 days from their exposure.

### **Vaccinated Individuals**

Individuals fully vaccinated for COVID-19 who are exposed to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 are not required to isolate from team activities per the guidelines in this section. Vaccinated members should continue to follow all other TYSA Guidelines. For example, if a vaccinated individual tests positive for COVID-19 then they will still need to follow the return to play guidelines above..

## **Responsibilities of the Player, Coaches, Managers and Club**

**Players** – If your player has either tested positive for the coronavirus, or has come in close contact with someone who has tested positive, then the family is asked to alert their Coach, Team Manager (Academy/Select only) as well as our Executive Director ([gareth@tysa.com](mailto:gareth@tysa.com)) as soon as possible.

**Coaches (Staff and Volunteer)**– In the event of a positive coronavirus test or close contact exposure, you must contact Director Gareth. If you are alerted to a player’s positive test or close contact, please make sure your manager and Director Gareth are also notified.

**Team Managers (Academy/Select Only)** – If you are alerted to a player’s positive test or close contact, please make sure your team’s coach and Director Gareth are also notified.

**Club’s Responsibility** – Upon hearing that a player or coach has either tested positive or is a close contact, the club will alert the team.

TYSA is not legally allowed or qualified to conduct contact tracing for the *purpose of sharing with persons outside* of the Department of Health or local health authorities. The club is also legally unable to share information about the identity (name, age, or gender) of the infected source, and we hope that you too will respect the privacy and identity, per federal requirements, for anyone with a confirmed or suspected case of the virus. Families are allowed to disclose their own information if they wish to do so. TYSA will never release that information nor ask the affected family to do so.

The Executive Board and Club Director will meet immediately in the event of a positive case to address the situation with a goal to ensure safety and privacy. While there is intra-squad exposure risk; due to the nature of soccer and our mitigation strategies, the hope is that in-person team training and match play will continue uninterrupted.

## **Amended Refund Policy**

Due to the heightened anxiety from the COVID-19 Pandemic, TYSA has reviewed its current [Season Refund Policy](#) and will make a temporarily change for the upcoming 2021/2022 soccer year. The amended refund policy only applies to a season cancellation due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

TYSA, GA Soccer and the SCCL will make every attempt to get a full season in. If a season is cancelled, then a prorated refund will be due from the month following the cancelation to the end of the season. Example, the season is cancelled on September 10<sup>th</sup>, then the prorated refund will be for October & November. If the season is paused and later cancelled, refunds will be based on the original Pause date. More details to come should this occur.

At the time of this guideline, TYSA does not offer a season ending cancellation insurance policy.

### **Season Refunds**

For our Recreational soccer program, if the season is cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we will be offering prorated refunds depending upon when the cancellation occurs.

For our Academy and Select programs, as previously stated, TYSA will offer a prorated refund depending on when the season is cancelled. The prorated refunds will be based on fees due for the current season (\$775 for Academy, \$835 for Select). For those on the Monthly Payment Plan, the final monthly payment will be made on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of the month in which the cancellation occurred, regardless of the cancellation date. No other payments will be withdrawn for that season.