

Gateway Little League Covid Mitigation Strategy/Protocol Fall Baseball Emery/Pettis Field

1. Players will not participate in any practice or game if they have experienced any Covid related symptoms within the last 72hrs. Players who have others that live in their home who have experienced Covid related symptoms within the last 72hrs are not be eligible to practice or play until the CDC recommended waiting period has passed or they have received a negative Covid test.
2. Spectators will be positioned in marked areas distanced by at least 6' between family groups and 10' from any active players. Due to the proximity of the bleachers at Pettis field to the dugout areas the bleachers will be marked closed during practice and games to spectators. All spectators will be required to wear masks in transition to and from their vehicles and the designated seating areas. In accordance with state guidelines total attendance not including players, coaches, officials, will be limited to 50 persons.
3. The GWLL team will be limited to 18 maximum participants to include players and coaches.
4. Each team will have a Covid information official at each practice and game. Signage and information will be posted reinforcing Covid related mitigation best practices. Any person who begins to exhibit Covid related symptoms during the event shall promptly inform the Covid information official and depart the field immediately.
5. Players will be required to wear masks anytime they are in the dugout or at the following positions on the field, catcher, 1st base, 2nd base, short stop, 3rd base or batter up/base runner. Masks will not be required for the pitcher or the outfielders or by players in the expanded dugout area so long as they maintain 6' foot of separation between themselves and others. Coaches and officials will be required to wear masks when on the field of play, in the dugouts, or cannot maintain 6' of separation. Coaches/players will not need to wear masks during practice so long as they are at least 6' from other players or other coaches.
6. Umpires shall always wear a mask and the plate umpire shall be located behind the pitcher's mound. Umpires should not handle any game equipment unless absolutely necessary.
7. The dugout will be expanded (marked off with tape) so only the next three players on deck and one coach will be allowed inside the dugout, all others will be in the expanded dugout area or on the field of play.
8. There will be no concessions or refreshments offered by the league at either baseball field during baseball games or practices. Players will not be allowed to chew seeds or consume food items of any kind other than their personally supplied beverage (clearly marked) while on the field or in the expanded dug out area. Anyone removing their masks to hydrate will ensure at least 6' of separation exists between themselves and the nearest person. All beverage containers shall be marked clearly with a name or stored in a suitable cooler/bag which is marked as described.
9. All players will be required to sanitize their hands at the beginning of the game and at each half inning (for active players). Every attempt will be made to sanitize any baseballs used for game play at each half inning by wiping them down with a cloth dampened with an appropriate sanitizing agent. Each team must supply their own baseballs and follow the outlined sanitizing practice.
10. The league will supply the appropriate sanitizing products to all coaches, should sanitizing products become unavailable, games and or practices will not be held until supplies have been restored. Coaches should provide adequate notice to the league so additional supplies can be procured in plenty of time.

11. Each player will be encouraged to provide their own equipment, in the event a family cannot provide the equipment the league will either lend it to the player for the season or sanitize it before the next player needs to utilize the same equipment. Under no circumstances will catchers be allowed to share any portion of their gear with other catchers. After each practice and or game the coaches or other appropriately league designated person will be required to ensure all shared league supplied team gear is clean and sanitized before the next use.
12. Game play will be modified to minimize contact, specifically at the conclusion of the game the traditional hand slap/shake between teams will not take place, additionally players will be taught not to fist bump, handshake, or otherwise engage in any horseplay or celebration where unnecessary contact may take place. There will be no before or after event gatherings for socialization or other purposes in the parking areas, all persons are expected to depart in an efficient manner.
13. Should any participants, volunteers, coaches, or spectators be diagnosed as positive for COVID-19 GWLL and Huntington BOH must be notified immediately and all play at Pettis field will be suspended for a minimum of 72hrs.
14. GWLL will provide a list of all registered participants, volunteers, and coaches with contact information to the BOH for purposes of contact tracing if necessary.
15. Should a positive Covid-19 case be diagnosed GWLL will be responsible to determine all spectators that may have attended the games or practices and inform the Huntington BOH with contact information.
16. Anyone that travels outside Massachusetts must follow the updated travel restrictions and shall not participate for 14 days after returning or have a negative test providing travel was to a restricted area.

At this time, it is expected that GWLL will only field one team, a traveling U11 team. Teams will be required to travel to and host teams from neighboring areas to ensure competition exists. Primarily we would be in competition with towns in the Little League D2 area. Basic geographic area is Chester to the west, Northampton to the north, Westfield to the south and Agawam to the east.

Depending on the number of participating teams in D2 we may seek to hold a scrimmage or two against teams to the west in Division 1 or Berkshire county.

With only one baseball team rostered it is there will only be one game or practice per field on any given day. GWLL will use the protocol outlined here as our minimum requirements, we will constantly monitor operations for potential lapses or improvements. If we were to add any additional safety measures, we would notify the appropriate Board of Health Departments as soon as possible in writing. If GWLL deemed it necessary to cease or modify any of the protocol agreed to in this document, we would seek permission prior to enactment in writing from the appropriate Board of Health Department.