

PLL Spring Ball 2021

We want nothing more than to see the ball fields full of young kids learning the great game of baseball; however, the health and safety of our athletes, spectators, staff, and volunteers remain the highest priority for Pearland Little League. As we are all aware, the COVID-19 pandemic has required us to change course from normal operations. We will be following State, Local, and little league guidelines to protect everyone who comes out to our facility to the best of our ability. Below, you will find a summary of actions we are taking to help ensure we are lowering COVID-19 risk as much as possible while also allowing our athletes to play. (The actions are taken from the Texas youth sports operators and participants guidelines, as well as the little league international guidelines).

General Guidelines

- Intensifying cleaning, disinfection, and ventilation within our facilities and premises by:
 1. Concession workers will be **required** to wear protective masks at all times. Directors on duty will wear a mask when social distancing guidelines cannot be followed (i.e. staying 6 ft apart). Any concession worker or Director who exhibits signs or symptoms of Covid-19 will be asked to stay home or sent home from work.
 2. Protective barriers will be utilized at all point-of-sale and food pick-up locations.
 3. Restrooms, counters, doors, railings, tables, and chairs will be sanitized frequently throughout the day/night when the facility is open. All areas will be thoroughly sanitized and cleaned prior to opening each day including bleachers and dugouts.
 4. Sanitizing equipment in regular intervals to prevent the spread of contact germs.

- Reducing physical closeness or contact between players when possible by:
 1. Players/families/spectators are instructed not to show up to fields more than 60 minutes before game time.
 2. If there is a game or practice prior to your event, families and spectators are encouraged to stay in their vehicles or at recommended social distances until the start of their game play to prevent overcrowding of spectator spaces and walkways.
 3. Please keep a distance of 6 feet between families while watching games in bleachers or by the fields. Spectators are encouraged to bring their own seating or portable chairs when possible.
 4. Discouraging unnecessary physical contact, such as high-fives, handshakes, fist bumps, and hugs. Before, during, and after games, no player handshakes will be allowed. Players, coaches, and spectators of opposite teams should not mix together.
 5. Players and families are asked to vacate the field/facility as soon as is reasonably possible after the conclusion of their game to minimize unnecessary contact with players, coaches, and spectators from the next game.

- Promoting healthy hygiene practices such as:
 1. Washing hands or using hand sanitizer before and after practices and games.
 2. Encouraging all players and spectators to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or to use the inside of their elbow and reminding them to not spit.
 3. No Sunflower seeds or gum used by players or spectators.
- Requesting that coaches, youth sports staff, officials, parents, and spectators wear a cloth face covering during practices and games when social distancing guidelines cannot be followed.
- Players, Coaches, and/or Dugout helpers will be required to wear a cloth face covering when they are inside of the dugouts, they may be removed when they are batting and/or playing in the field.
- Players must have their own individual batter's helmet, glove, bat, and catcher's equipment. Some critical equipment may not be able to be obtained by every individual. When it is necessary to share critical or limited equipment, all surfaces of each piece of shared equipment must be cleaned first and disinfected with an EPA approved disinfectant against COVID-19 before used by a new player. Increased attention should be paid to detailed cleaning of all equipment directly contacting the head and face (catcher's mask, helmets).
- No team snacks.

Guidelines for Illness

- Coaches and Parents responsibilities
 - Be on the lookout for symptoms of COVID-19, which include fever, cough, or shortness of breath. Call your doctor if you think you or a family member is sick.
- In evaluating whether an individual has symptoms consistent with COVID-19, consider the following:

Have they recently begun experiencing any of the following in a way that is not normal for them?

- Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
- Loss of taste or smell
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Shortness of breath
- Headache
- Chills

- Sore throat
 - Shaking or exaggerated shivering
 - Significant muscle pain or ache
 - Diarrhea
- **Any players, spectators, umpires, or directors who either (a) are lab-confirmed to have COVID-19; or (b) experience the symptoms of COVID-19 (listed above) must stay at home throughout the infection period and cannot return to the Dads Club or any team activity until they meet the return criteria.**
 - In the case of an individual who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 but who has not been evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, such individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return to the Dads Club or team activities until the individual has completed the return criteria.
 - Individuals – including players, spectators, umpires, workers, coaches, directors, and visitors—who have had close contact (defined below) with someone who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19, as defined in this document, and as determined by the appropriate public health agency, should stay at home through the 14-day incubation period, and should not attend games, practices, or team events. They need to meet the return to play criteria below to resume participation.
 - *Close contact is defined as: being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on while not wearing a mask or face shield); or being within 6 feet for a cumulative duration of 15 minutes, while not wearing a mask or face shield.*
 - If a player, coach, or anyone with direct contact with the team has a positive test for COVID-19 in addition to the stay home criteria above we need the positive result to be reported as follows:
 - (a) Report it to the coach (report when symptoms first appeared),
 - (b) Coach will report it to the division director and the safety director,
 - (c) The coach will then advise the team of a positive test, and if the close contact criteria apply then the team will need to follow the appropriate quarantine steps
 - If a single player, coach, or anyone with direct contact (dugout help) with the team has a positive test for COVID-19 the team will be asked if the close contact criteria apply (see above) and if so, to self-evaluate for symptoms and follow the proper CDC guidelines but are not required to self-quarantine, or stop practice/games unless,
 - (a) Two or more players, coaches, or direct contact helpers, from the same team have symptoms or test positive in a 7-day period in which case the entire team will be asked to refrain from all baseball activities for a period of 10 days and asked to report self-evaluations for symptoms to their coach. Games that are scheduled during the suspension of team activities will be re-scheduled, if possible.

Return to Play Criteria

- In the case of an individual who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to the Dads Club and any team activity when all three of the following criteria are met (adapted from Youth sports operators guide):
 - (a) at least two days (48 hours) have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications);
 - (b) the individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and
 - (c) at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
- In the case of an individual who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 but who has not been evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, the individual may return to the Dads Club and any team activity when the following criteria are met:
 - (a) least three days (72 hours) have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications);
 - (b) the individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and
 - (c) at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
- If the individual has symptoms that could have been COVID-19 and wants to return to games or practices before completing the 14 day stay at home period, the individual must either
 - (a) obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis or
 - (b) receive two separate confirmations at least 24 hours apart that they are free of COVID via acute infection tests at an approved COVID-19 testing location found at <https://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/>.
- If an individual is informed by Pearland ISD that they have been potentially exposed at school and are required to stay home from school, they are required to stay away from all team activities at Pearland Little league. When they are cleared to return to school (via negative test or quarantine period) they may return to baseball activities.

**PLL reserves the right to modify any portion of these guidelines as new or additional information is provided. These guidelines have been established on February 21, 2021.