



## Rockaway Township Soccer Association (RTSA) 2020/21 Updated Return to Play/COVID-19 Protocol

### Introduction:

The purpose of this document is to provide the Rockaway Township Soccer Association (RTSA) coaches, staff, players and their families with information explaining RTSA's plans to meet updated New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) guidelines pertaining to sports activities effective May 18, 2021.

The list below represents RTSA's updated return to play/Covid-19 protocol effective immediately. *Participants are defined as players, coaches, RTSA staff, parents, spectators and guests.*

These items are in direct response to the town's list of required measures:

1. Soccer is listed as a Medium risk sport by the state Department of Health.
2. RTSA coaches/staff will be responsible for reminding participants that this plan is enacted for all RTSA practices and games.
3. For all RTSA events (practices, games, fundraisers, picture day, etc.), all participants must maintain proper social distancing (at least 6 feet apart) whenever possible to the extent they are permitted regardless of vaccination status. This includes players, coaches, trainers, players' parents/guardians, and spectators.
4. For all RTSA events, all **UNVACCINATED** participants are encouraged to wear a cloth mask in outdoor settings especially when social distancing cannot be maintained. This includes players, coaches, trainers, players' parents/guardians, and spectators. Players should wear a mask as they arrive at or depart an event and when they are not engaged in physical activity. Children under 2 years of age do not need to wear masks.
5. For all RTSA events, **VACCINATED** participants are not required to wear a mask outdoors but should maintain proper social distancing (at least 6 feet apart) whenever possible.
6. All events will be scheduled so proper sanitization can occur if necessary and entry on/exit from fields will not result in overcrowding.
7. All staff/volunteers will be provided educational materials that have been created by



NJYS pertaining to safety guidelines for Return to Play. These materials will be readily available on our website ([rtsa.org](http://rtsa.org)). These materials will cover the following guidelines:

- a. Respiratory Etiquette
  - b. Social Distancing Requirements
  - c. Staying Home When Sick Requirements
  - d. Proper Hand Hygiene
  - e. Plan for When a Participant Becomes Sick
  - f. Plan for How to Address Participant Refusing to Follow Guidelines
8. All food and drinks at all RTSA events must be individual. No sharing will be allowed.
  9. Players are encouraged to use their own equipment to the extent possible.
  10. Any shared equipment should be sanitized after each event.
  11. All fields utilized by RTSA will have signs that have been created by NJYS. These signs contain reminders of safety and social distancing guidelines.
  12. To reduce overcrowding at fields, all players will arrive for practice at a designated drop off/field entry location. At the conclusion of practice, players will leave the field from a separate exit/pick-up location. Practice times will be spaced apart with enough time to avoid overlapping departures and arrivals.
  13. Hand sanitizer will be available at field entry/exit points, in Port-o-potties, and near player benches. Bathrooms will have soap and water if applicable. Disinfecting wipes/sprays will be available to sanitize equipment and high touch surfaces. Players will be asked to bring and keep their own hand sanitizer in their bags.
  14. All RTSA fields will adhere to the governor's restrictions on numbers of people gathering outdoors.
  15. All coaches/trainers and players will have their temperatures checked prior to being allowed to participate in a practice. All coaches/trainers and players will also be required to answer screening questions provided by NJYS. Any player, coach or staff member with a temperature of 100.4 F or above or is exhibiting signs/symptoms related to COVID-19 will not be allowed to participate and will be sent home.
  16. Any participant in a practice that becomes ill or begins exhibiting signs/symptoms related to the COVID-19 will be required to exit the field. If the participant is a player, a parent/guardian will be contacted for immediate pick up and the player will be escorted by a coach/staff member, wearing appropriate PPE, to the pick-up location. If the participant is a coach or staff member, the individual must leave immediately.
  17. Contact activities not related to soccer will not be allowed during practice sessions.
  18. Parents and other visitors (spectators) will be asked to remain off of the field during practice sessions to reduce the numbers of people on the field. Any visitor on the field during practice sessions will be required to wear a mask(if necessary) and abide by social distancing requirements.
  19. Coaches/trainers and players will not engage in any close-contact activities. This includes giving high-fives, spitting, handshakes, team huddles, and other types of



activities of this nature.

20. All guidelines outlined above will also be required at all games, including tournaments.
21. Transportation to RTSA practices and games should be done by the player's own families. Carpooling is discouraged and should be avoided.
22. Games will be scheduled to allow for time to sanitize and allow for social distancing as participants and spectators exit and enter the field.
23. Parents will educate and ensure compliance of this protocol with their families and guests.
24. Any player, coach, staff, or parent and their guests that do not adhere to this protocol and any other guidelines set by the Department of Health will be asked to leave the event.



***IF YOU ARE NOT COMFORTABLE WITH RETURNING TO PLAY,  
DON'T.***

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RTSA's RETURN TO PLAY PROTOCOL**

I acknowledge that I have read, understood and agreed to abide by the Rockaway Township Soccer Association (RTSA) Return To Play Protocol and that failure to do so will result in not being allowed to participate in RTSA sponsored activities. I understand that this applies to all participants (players, coaches, staff), their families and guests (spectators).

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Parent Name (Print)**

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**Parent Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Parent Name (Print)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Parent Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Player Name (Print)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Player Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**