

Statement of Purpose: The intent of this document is to assist athletic departments with preparation and implementation strategies to enhance safe return to campus and athletic activity following the COVID-19 pandemic. Each institution should personalize the content of this plan to incorporate campus-specific policies and resources.

**Disclaimer: Recommendations are fluid and subject to change. Therefore, it is important to stay current with public healthcare guidelines as well as recommendations from governing bodies. **

Pre-Return and Return to Campus Preparation and Communication Plan

A. Campus General Council/ Risk Management Liability Understanding

1. Align department policies with campus policies and communication of public healthcare guidelines
2. Reporting, monitoring and resolution of symptoms of illness should align with institutional guidelines
 - Patient – Healthcare Provider contact
 - Emphasis on avoiding communal buildings
3. Infectious Disease Education for Student Athletes & Departmental Staff
 - Guidelines for infection prevention and transmission control
 - Proper communication methods for reporting symptoms
 - Individual Personal Conduct and Hygiene

B. Creation of Athletics COVID-19 Action Team

1. Primary Stakeholders/ Members:
 - Athletic Director or Designee
 - Healthcare Administrator
 - Sport Medicine
 - Strength and Conditioning
 - Team Physicians
 - Student Health
 - University Crisis Management/ Emergency Preparedness
 - Counselling
 - Facilities
2. Potential Advisory Groups:
 - Federal/ state/ local public health Officials
 - Custodial/Sanitation
 - Compliance
 - Coaching/ Sport Operations
 - Equipment
 - Housing, Dining and Nutrition
 - Student Development
 - Academics
 - Human Resources
 - Campus Safety
 - Athletic Conference/ Governing Bodies
3. Resources to Consider:
 - [CDC: Infection Prevention and Control Assessment Tool for Outpatient Settings \(2016\)](#)
 - [BOC Facility Principles \(2015\)](#)
 - [CDC Guideline for Isolation Precautions: Preventing Transmission of Infectious Agents in Healthcare Settings \(2019\)](#)
 - [NCAA Core Principles of Resocialization of Sport](#)
 - [American College Health Association \(ACHA\) COVID-19 Resources](#)
 - *ACHA Guidelines: Student Health Considerations & Guidelines for Re-opening Higher Education Institutions*



- [EPA List N: Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2 \(2020\)](#)
- [CDC: Guidance for the Selection and Use of Personal Protective Equipment in Healthcare Settings](#)
- [Interassociation Recommendations: Preventing Catastrophic Injury and Death \(2019\)](#)
- [CSCCa and NSCA Joint Consensus Guidelines for Transition Periods \(2019\)](#)
- Websites for Local, County or Regional Board of Health governing bodies responsible for administering and enforcing state public health laws and regulations

C. Creation of Action Plan with consideration of the following items and in alignment with institution guidelines/ action plans:

1. Guidelines and acquisition of personal protective equipment for staff
 - Alignment with CDC and State/Local guidelines on appropriate protection
 - Evaluate PPE and equipment Needs/ Availability/ Optimization
 - Procurement of materials may dictate levels of service and operational capacity
2. Return to Campus Guidelines
 - Alignment with public health agencies, governmental and institutional guidelines regarding travel and post-travel recommendations
 - See *recommendations from NATA: ICSM COVID19 Screening Committee*
3. Quarantine/Isolation Unit Planning
 - Alignment with public health agencies and institutional guidelines
 - Considerations:
 - On and Off Campus Housing/ Dining
 - Documentation
 - Contact and Location Tracing (HIPPA/ FERPA)
 - Length of time away from individuals/ facility
 - Location
 - Monitoring, Follow-up and serial exams
 - Discontinuation considerations
 - Personal Travel Procedures
 - Team Travel Procedures
4. Infectious Disease Cluster Response Plan
 - Contact Local and Institutional Health Authorities
 - Consideration of general epidemiological strategies, and best practice recommendations
 - Re-Evaluation of prior Disinfectant/Purification/Equipment Plan
5. COVID-19 Prevention Disinfectant/Purification/Equipment Plan
 - Considerations:
 - Procurement of materials may dictate levels of service and operational capacity
 - Proper products and application methods:
 - Locker Rooms
 - Weight room
 - Communal Areas
 - Meeting Rooms
 - Healthcare Facilities
 - Academic Areas
 - High Touch Surfaces
 - Any shared health, fitness and sport equipment
 - Food Service – Communal Meals and Fueling Stations
 - Sanitary Hydration
 - Laundry
6. EMS/911 Emergency Differentiation Plan
 - Adaptation of Emergency Action Plans based on Campus and Local EMS/ Safety availability, facilities considerations, increased demands and increased risk of exposure at local emergency facilities.

- Alternate Hospitals and Healthcare Facilities
 - Alternate Transportation plans (Triage, location, etc.)
 - On-site availability of Physicians
 - Capacity Student Health Services
7. Social Distancing Considerations
- Social Distancing Principles within:
 - Team Scheduling of Shared Facilities
 - Healthcare Facilities
 - Locker rooms
 - Weight rooms
 - Team Meeting rooms
 - Athletic Academic Areas
 - High Volume Communal Areas in Athletic Facilities
 - Athletic Dining Areas
 - Recommendations to conduct virtual team activities when possible.
8. Implementation of Infectious Disease Prevention Plan (Shared Responsibility)
- Individual Personal Conduct
 - Signage
 - Hand Sanitation Stations
 - Annual prevention education and training
 - Operational Considerations
9. Pre-participation Considerations
- Physicals Exams and Screenings
 - Contingency Plan based on provider accessibility and institutional guidelines regarding physicals exams.
 - Evaluation of additional screenings based on health history, as recommended by team physician/ PCP.
 - New student-athlete, returning student-athlete, student-athlete with verified (+) test for COVID-19
 - Obtain recommendations from treating physician when possible
- D. **Safe Transition to Athletic Activity**
1. Adherence to governing body and consensus recommendations for transition and acclimation to activity following extended inactivity periods
 2. Event planning and management considerations:
 - Game management personnel
 - Visiting team concerns
 - Venues
 - Spectators
 3. Team operations and team travel considerations
- E. **Contingency Plan to Manage Recurrence**