

**Tourism, Heritage & Culture – Sport & Recreation Branch**  
**COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions**

*The challenges our Province is facing with the COVID-19 crisis are unprecedented, and we are all eager to see a full return to the sports and activities we enjoy. As the Province forges ahead with its recovery plan, we must all stay vigilant and proceed cautiously as additional restrictions are lifted and more activities resume.*

*The answers provided in this document reflects the Branch’s efforts to provide as much clarity and guidance to our partners in the Recreation and Sport sector based on the information of the day. The situation is fluid and the information changes daily, and the onus is on each organization to understand the restrictions set out by the Province as well as the recommendations and requirements of Public Health and the Guidelines for New Brunswick Workplaces issued by WorkSafe NB.*

*The health and safety of our citizens is of paramount priority, and the public is strongly encouraged to visit the Province’s dedicated COVID-19 website for the most current information: [www.gnb.ca/coronavirus](http://www.gnb.ca/coronavirus) .*

<b>FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS</b>	
<b>*** July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020 ***</b>	
1. Where can I find information on GNB COVID-19 response?	<a href="http://www.gnb.ca/coronavirus">www.gnb.ca/coronavirus</a> and <a href="#">Frequently Asked Questions</a>
2. Where can I find the COVID19 Operational Plan guide?	<a href="#">COVID-19 Operational Plan Guide</a> and <a href="#">Guidance Document of General Public Health Measures During COVID-19 Recovery</a>
3. Where can I find guidelines for workplaces?	<a href="#">Embracing the New Normal As We Safety Return To Work</a> and <a href="#">Frequently Asked Questions</a>
4. Where can I find the COVID-19 Operational Plan Template?	A template is available on page 16 of the WorkSafe NB "Embracing the New Normal" document
5. Where can I find guidance documents and Risk Assessment Examples?	In addition to the links above, the following documents may be helpful: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Community-Based Measures Guidance</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Risk Assessment Guideline Health Canada</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">PHAC Risk Mitigation Tool for Child and Youth Settings</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Risk Mitigation Tool for Outdoor Recreation Spaces and Activities Operating during the COVID-19 Pandemic</a></li> </ul>
	Own the Podium has also developed a Risk Assessment Tool specific to sport. We recommend you contact your National Sport Organization for guidance on this tool.
6. Will COVID-19 affect my organization’s insurance coverage?	Organizations should contact their insurance provider directly. Virus and biological agents/contagions are typically an exclusion in most policies. Many insurers now have a specific COVID-19 exclusion as well.
7. Should my organization update its waivers / assumptions of risk (for minors) forms to include COVID-19?	Organizations are strongly encouraged to discuss this with their insurance providers and consider getting legal advice.
	In general, including COVID-19 into your waivers and forms would be a good risk management practice. For more information about Waivers and Forms under COVID-19, we encourage you to listen to this <a href="#">webinar</a> .
	Please note that Provincial Organizations have received templates that include COVID-19 which can be shared to local organizations.

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<p>8. What organizations are required to have a COVID-19 Operational Plan?</p>	<p>Each organization or group must have its own unique COVID-19 Operational Plan in place that outlines how they will manage the safe operation of their programs and activities. The plan must address, but is not limited to, physical distancing, cleaning and disinfecting, hand and respiratory hygiene pre-screening for symptoms.</p> <p>This includes Multisport Organizations, Provincial Sport Organizations, Regional Organizations and Local Organizations.</p> <p>COVID-19 Operational Plans must be made available at all workplaces and activities.</p>
<p>9. Can a local club just adopt its' Provincial Organization's COVID-19 Operational Plan?</p>	<p>Provincial Organizations are encouraged to provide high level guidance. Local organizations must have their own COVID-19 Operational Plan that takes in consideration local operations.</p>
<p>10. Will Government review and approve my COVID-19 Operational Plans?</p>	<p>Government does not approve plans. Sport and Recreation Organizations can contact their respective Sport and Recreation Branch Consultant for additional guidance however final approval remains the responsibility of each organization.</p>
<p>11. Is there be a mechanism for organizations to be able to access the COVID-19 Operational Plans from each of the facilities?</p>	<p>The Sport and Recreation Branch does not keep a database of organizations COVID-19 Operational Plans.</p> <p>It is incumbent on organizations and clubs to work collaboratively with facility owners and operators to ensure that programs are delivered as safely as possible.</p> <p>Recreation and Sport Organizations should refer to or add the COVID-19 Operational Plan of the facility they are using to their organization's COVID-19 Operational Plan.</p>
<p>12. If I rent an office, am I required to have a COVID-19 Operational Plan or is it my landlord's responsibility?</p>	<p>All organizations must have their own COVID-19 Operational Plan for their workplace. When the workplace is rented from another organization, it should align with the landlord's COVID-19 Operational Plan.</p>
<p>13. If there is no opportunity for approval of my Operational Plan what will happen if there is a spot check and my plan doesn't meet the requirements?</p>	<p>The inspections/spot checks are focused on education and monitoring. If spot check finds weaknesses in a plan, the aim will be to provide the guidance for the organization to meet the requirements. Blatant disregard of the requirements could result in a fine, or worse, a COVID-19 outbreak.</p> <p>The action items that are listed in the WorkSafe NB template are comprehensive.</p>
<p>14. Some of our coaches are self-employed. Are they required to have their own operational plan?</p>	<p>Organizations that hire coaches are required to have a COVID-19 Operational Plan. Unless the coaches offer activities independently of an organization, they are not required to have their own COVID-19 Operational Plan.</p>
<p>15. Where can I find more information about Employment Standards</p>	<p><a href="http://www.gnb.ca/labour">www.gnb.ca/labour</a>  or contact 1-888-452-2687</p>

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16. Where can we purchase hand sanitizing or protective equipment?	<a href="https://www2.snb.ca/content/dam/snb/Procurement/AtlanticCanadaPESuppliersForPrivateIndustry.pdf">https://www2.snb.ca/content/dam/snb/Procurement/AtlanticCanadaPESuppliersForPrivateIndustry.pdf</a>
17. Where can I find a guide on cleaning and disinfection for COVID-19?	<a href="https://www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Departments/h-s/pdf/Cleaning_DisinfectingE.pdf">https://www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Departments/h-s/pdf/Cleaning_DisinfectingE.pdf</a>
18. Is there guidance available to determine how often a shared piece of equipment should be disinfected?	There is currently no specific guidance other than “as often as possible” to a minimum of twice per day. Sports are responsible to determine the best system to implement to limit exposure via the sharing of equipment (eg. Rotation of sanitized balls after each play, etc.)
19. Who is responsible to provide hand cleaning stations / hand sanitizing dispensers? Facilities or user-groups?	Facilities will be required to have hand cleaning stations which will be listed in their COVID-19 Operational Plan. Organizations must also address cleaning and sanitization in their respective COVID-19 Operational Plan and practices. Organizations are encouraged to communicate with their respective facility to confirm these details.
20. Are organizations required to collect information on the participants that take part in their activities?	Yes. The current mandatory order requires that organizations maintain a record of the names and contact information of all persons who attend and must make those records available to Public Health Inspectors upon request.  For more guidance: <a href="#">Collection of names and contact information under the Mandatory Order COVID-19</a>
21. What is screening and when is it required?	See WorkSafe NB document (page 9 and 11) Passive Screening is required by all organizations. Active Screening is required in workplaces where 2m physical distancing can't be maintained.
22. What does my organization do if we find out that an employee, volunteer or participant has been exposed to someone infected with COVID-19?	<a href="https://www.worksafenb.ca/media/60927/frequently-asked-questions-COVID-19.pdf">https://www.worksafenb.ca/media/60927/frequently-asked-questions-COVID-19.pdf</a>
23. Can my organizations hold an in-person meeting?	Indoor meetings for business purposes are allowed provided they can maintain physical distancing and meet other requirements.  Organizations are still encouraged to use conference call or online conferencing software for their meetings.
24. Is my organization allowed to have day camps?	Sport day camps will have to operate according to the <a href="#">Guidance to Early Learning and Childcare Facilities and Day Camps</a> as well as the <b>expectations for the particular sport (including maintaining physical distancing)</b> involved as established by the relevant provincial sport association. Also see: <a href="#">Frequently Asked Questions for Summer Camps</a>

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<p>25. Is my organization required to maintain 2m physical distancing measures during its activities?</p>	<p>Yes. Organized sports may operate as long as they identify means to limit the number and intensity of close contacts during play.</p> <p>All reasonable attempts shall be made to respect physical distancing measures as much as possible except brief contact on or off the field, arenas, gyms, rinks, etc.</p> <p>A gradual phased in approach to return to play is advantageous (i.e. Structure 3-4 weeks (incubation period of virus) per phase starting with strict physical distancing requirements. Re-assess after each phase before loosening restrictions further).</p>
<p>26. Is my organization allowed to group participants in “bubbles” where they wouldn’t need to maintain physical distancing?</p>	<p>The Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health has returned a decision on this request. They have decided <b>to NOT permit</b> ‘bubbles’ for sports in New Brunswick based on public health evidence (current and emerging) associated with transmission of COVID-19 and the risk mitigation measures to protect community and sport-participant health.</p> <p>However, sports that occur in pairs only (e.g., martial arts) may proceed without physical distancing within each pair, but only in cases where pairs are consistent (members of each pair are not interchangeable), and where pairs are mutually-agreed members of a common and limited ‘close friends and family bubble’.</p>
<p>27. If my activity can’t be done with physical distancing measures, can the participants just wear masks?</p>	<p>In some activities, wearing a non-medical mask (NMM) may not be practical or tolerable, e.g., when playing active sports there might be a risk of poor oxygenation, easily soiled/moistened due to sweating/heavy breathing, or risk from injury if the mask is caught on equipment. Also, for NMMs to be of benefit, they need to be worn correctly. Failing to do so may present a risk rather than a benefit. For sports where a face shield can be used (e.g. hockey), a face shield may be considered.</p> <p>Anyone who is in a public area, where physical distancing of two metres cannot be maintained, should wear a face covering that covers their nose and mouth unless they are a child under the age of two or if they cannot wear one for medical reasons. For sport and recreation facilities, general guidance would be for patrons to wear them while not conducting the activity (e.g. entrance/exits and spectators)</p>
<p>28. How many participants are allowed in a facility or on an outdoor field for organized recreation and sport activities?</p>	<p>Occupancy of any facility must be based on the ability to maintain physical distancing between people that are not close friends and family. Venues with indoor events with controlled entry and/or controlled seating, are required to capture contact information on persons using the facility.</p> <p>Owners and occupiers of land and/or buildings must take all reasonable steps to prevent gatherings of more than 50 persons unless effective procedures ensure adequate screening and distancing as required by WorkSafe NB and the Chief Medical Officer of Health.</p>

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<p>29. Is there guidance available for facility owners to determine what would be an appropriate number of participants to allow?</p>	<p>There is no specific guidance from the Government of New Brunswick. However other jurisdictions have implemented restrictions for indoor facilities to limit occupancy to one person per 5 square metres (BC) or one person per 10 square (MB).</p>
<p>30. Are organizations required to limit the number of participants in a group to 15 similar to the day camp requirement?</p>	<p>For normal sport activities (not day camps), unless a facility owner says otherwise, organizations are not required to limit the number of participants in a group to 15 as long as organizations are able to demonstrate that all risk mitigation measures are followed, and programs are delivered as safely as possible.</p>
<p>31. For outdoor Recreation facilities, are nearby washrooms satisfactory for hand washing or do they need to bring in hand washing equipment right at the entrance of the field/court?</p>	<p>There is no defined requirement on where handwashing stations must be in proximity to the activity. Organizations must be able to demonstrate that hand hygiene requirements can be met.</p>
<p>32. My program requires having volunteers with First-Aid and CPR certificates, but first aid courses aren't offered due to COVID-19 physical distancing measures. What do I do?</p>	<p>See WorkSafe NB FAQs for guidance:  <a href="https://www.worksafenb.ca/media/60927/frequently-asked-questions-COVID-19.pdf">https://www.worksafenb.ca/media/60927/frequently-asked-questions-COVID-19.pdf</a></p>
<p>33. What are the expectations of a Provincial Organization on local organizations and unsanctioned groups of the same sport?</p>	<p>GNB was asked to meet with Provincial Recreation and Sport Organizations as leads for their respective sport but we do understand that there are some groups that you have no jurisdiction on. We hope you will share the info but don't expect you to oversee them.</p>
<p>34. What are the current border restrictions?</p>	<p>Interprovincial travel without the requirement to self-isolate is permitted in Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia, for residents of Atlantic Canada. Visitors from other Canadian provinces and territories must adhere to the local entry requirements in place in each of the four jurisdictions. Other Canadian visitors to the Maritime provinces that have self-isolated for 14 days may then travel within the Maritime region. For more information: <a href="#">Travel Information</a></p>
<p>35. Our organization would like to hire a coach/facilitator from another Province for a clinic. Can he/she still come?</p>	<p><a href="#">Travel Information</a></p>
<p>36. Can my organization host games or competitions?</p>	<p>Organizations who can demonstrate physical distancing measures in their COVID-19 Operational Plan can organize competitions.</p> <p>Tournaments in general should not be conducted in the usual way (large gatherings) but along a game-based playoff model instead to limit exposure as much as possible.</p>

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<p>37. Can my organization travel to or host teams from other Atlantic Provinces for competitions?</p>	<p>The current Mandatory Order does not restrict sport teams from travelling within the 'Atlantic Bubble' to compete. However, the 'Atlantic Bubble' was not opened with the intent of facilitating interprovincial sport opportunities.</p> <p>Concerns remain related to additional travel; the risk of larger gatherings and the fact that other jurisdictions may have more relaxed return-to-play protocols. All organizations are advised to carefully consider and assess the additional risk that travel to and participation in interprovincial events present.</p>
<p>38. Is there communication with the Education Dept to encourage them to open their recreation and sport facilities?</p>	<p>Interdepartmental collaboration and shared discussions are happening. Information will be shared when it is available.</p>
<p>39. Do municipalities, schools and facility owners have the right to not open recreation and sport facilities even if the restrictions are lifted?</p>	<p>Yes. The opening of recreation and sport facilities is at the discretion of the facility owners.</p>