

Brookline Safety Guidelines for Spring 2021

Due to the unprecedented uncertainties presented by the COVID19 pandemic, Brookline has implemented the following guidelines to try and limit the risk of infection to our players, coaches, and fans as best as possible based on current medical information, and government and health policy guidelines. We recognize that nothing we do will completely eliminate all risk, and may amend these guidelines if new information or circumstances support changes. We welcome all participants to our baseball and softball programs, as long as they accept the potential risks and agree to abide by the following policies:

Player, Coach and Parent/Fan Safety Measures

Players (for umpired leagues Prep, Minors, and Majors)

- Do not come to any team activities if you or any member of your household has a fever. If a player feels feverish, they must take their temperature at home before coming to any team activity.
 - If > 100.0 and fever does not resolve within 24 hr, it is recommended that you contact your PCP
 - If COVID testing is recommended by PCP, player may not return to team activities until test results are negative, or 10 days after symptom onset, whichever occurs first
 - If COVID testing is not recommended by PCP, player may return to team activities 24 hours after resolution of fever and any other symptoms of acute infection (cough, chills, sore throat)
- Use personal equipment only
- No spitting, chewing gum/seeds
- Sanitize hands with personal wipes or sanitizer often
- Have own personal use water bottle – no sharing
- Maintain 6ft distancing whenever possible
 - Stay 6 ft apart during fielding drills and waiting in line at batting practice
 - No congregating in dugouts – during practice players should keep their personal equipment spaced 6 ft apart. During games, teams have a choice to follow one of two protocols: 1) allow only the batter, on-deck batter and player in the hole in the dugout, with all other team members distancing in bleachers outside of dugout; or 2) Have all players wear masks in the dugout.
- No handshakes, high fives, fist bumps, etc.
- Abide by any/all safety regulations set forth by any umpire, coaches or league official

Players (additional policies for Tee Ball, Farm, and Rookie leagues)

- All policies listed above for umpired leagues will be followed except for additional measures noted here
- Players are encouraged to use their own bats or helmets. Players who do not have their own may use league equipment. Players must bring wipes for parents or coaches to wipe off equipment between users if there is not enough equipment for each player who needs equipment to have their own for an entire game.
- All players in these age groups will wear masks at all times (except when drinking water) during games and practices, both in the field and on the sidelines. This may be revised later in the season for Rookie leagues if players demonstrate an ability to maintain social distancing while playing the field.

Coaches

- Do not come to any team activities if you or any member of your household has a fever. If a coach feels feverish, they must take their temperature at home before coming to any team activity.
 - If > 100.0 and fever does not resolve within 24 hr, it is recommended that you contact your PCP

- If COVID testing is recommended by PCP, coach may not return to team activities until test results are negative, or 10 days after symptom onset, whichever occurs first
- If COVID testing is not recommended by PCP, coach may return to team activities 24 hours after resolution of fever and any other symptoms of acute infection (cough, chills, sore throat)
- Wear face mask during practice/game
- Responsible for the above behaviors of the players
- Have own personal use water bottle – no sharing
- Maintain 6ft distancing
- No handshakes, high fives, fist bumps, etc.
- Disinfect any gear that must be shared (e.g. catchers gear) between users
- Abide by any/all safety regulations set forth by any league officials
- Communicate any potential exposure/illness of any player or coach with the head coach and/or league safety officials.

Parents/Fans

- Parents are responsible for ensuring their child has not been exposed to any potential risks as stated in the parent attestation statement (see below), or informing the coach if they have been exposed
- Parents are responsible for getting their own child to/from the field
 - Carpooling is highly **discouraged** and if necessary all riders should be masked
- Parents are responsible for supplying their own child with hand sanitizer or disinfectant wipes
- Must maintain 6ft social distancing
- Must remain outside field of play
- May need to bring own seating as many common bleachers will be closed off
- Face masks highly recommended
- Must either mention concerns to the head coach or report to the league safety official if team (players and/or coaches) is not following above safety guidelines. Parent/fan reports to league officials will be kept confidential.
- Agree to discuss details of any potential COVID-19 exposure with league officials. Information will be kept confidential, and will be used to estimate potential risk of exposure to other players.

Parent attestation:

Signing of waiver forms by parents during registration, and continuing to bring your child to the fields to participate in Brookline activities, indicates that parents acknowledge they have read and agree with the following attestation: “By allowing my child to be present at the fields for any Brookline activities, including to play games, practice, or watch other games, I am declaring that no one in our immediate household has tested positive for COVID-19 nor come in contact with anyone with a positive test without wearing a mask, since the last team activity. I also declare no one in our household has a fever, new cough, or new loss of smell or taste; and no one in our household has any two of the following symptoms: headaches, shortness of breath, chills or sore throat. I re-make this declaration each and every time my child attends any Brookline activities.”

If anyone in a household does test positive for COVID-19, or has been exposed to someone who has tested positive, you must contact your PCP for testing consideration and medical clearance before any players, coaches or fans from that household return to Brookline activities. If any person in your household has a fever, a new cough, or a new loss of smell or taste; or has any two of the following symptoms: headaches, shortness of breath, chills or sore throat; no one from the household is allowed at the fields. If these symptoms resolve by 24 hours later, household members may return to Brookline activities. If symptoms persist beyond 24 hours, please contact your PCP and do not return to any Brookline activities until your PCP determines that no one in your household poses a risk of spreading COVID-19.

Plans in case of potential COVID-19 exposures

The above safety measures are taken to mitigate the potential risks to all members of the Brookline community. By following applicable government and health expert guidelines, which are based on the assumption that it is possible that any person could potentially be an asymptomatic carrier of the virus, the above detailed plans to maintain social distancing as much as possible, have coaches wear masks, use frequent hand washing, and avoid shared equipment, the risk of virus spread is likely to be limited. Everyone must, however, accept there is still some risk.

If a player or coach tests positive for COVID-19, that person will be asked to self-quarantine until one of the following happens: a doctor determines no one in the household continues to have an active infection, the person remains asymptomatic and has a negative virus test, or the person is asymptomatic for 10 full days starting from the date they first tested positive for the virus. If a player or coach is exposed to someone else who tests positive for COVID, that person will discontinue all Brookline activities until the league has time to investigate the nature of the exposure and assess the relative level of risk. Clearance from their PCP, negative virus testing or remaining asymptomatic for 10 days may be required before returning to Brookline activities if the relative risk level of their exposure is felt to be sufficiently high.

If a player or coach tests positive for COVID-19, the team will be notified that someone has tested positive WITHOUT identifying the player or coach, as privacy will be maintained. If the team has been following all above safety protocols, then the coaches will be asked to perform an extra sanitation of any team equipment (bats, helmets, catchers gear), and all players will be asked to wipe their own equipment with sanitizer before the next team activity. All team activities will continue as scheduled. If; however, the involved team has not been following all safety protocols, then all team activities will be suspended until the player or coach who tested positive either has a repeat test that is negative, or until 10 days after the last time that player/coach was at a team activity. Thus, it is important that all players, coaches, and family members adhere to the safety protocols, and that parents or coaches report to the league any failures of teams to follow these protocols.