



COVID-19 Preparedness Plan for Plymouth Wayzata Youth Baseball Association (PWYBA)

Plymouth Wayzata Youth Baseball Association (PWYBA) is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for all our players, coaches, spectators, umpires, and volunteers. To ensure a safe and healthy experience, PWYBA has developed the following COVID-19 Preparedness Plan in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. All adults are all responsible for implementing and adhering to this plan. Our goal is to mitigate the potential for transmission of COVID-19 in our communities, and that requires full cooperation among our players, coaches, spectators, umpires, and volunteers. Only through this cooperative effort can we establish and maintain the safety and health of all persons involved with baseball.

The COVID-19 Preparedness Plan is administered by PWYBA COVID Preparedness Plan Administrator, who maintains the overall authority and responsibility for the plan. However, all families are equally responsible for supporting, implementing, complying with, and providing recommendations to further improve all aspects of this COVID-19 Preparedness Plan. PWYBA's families have our full support in enforcing the provisions of this plan.

PWYBA's COVID-19 Preparedness Plan follows the industry guidance developed by the state of Minnesota, available at the Stay Safe Minnesota website (<https://staysafe.mn.gov>), which is based upon Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) guidelines for COVID-19, and Minnesota's relevant and current executive orders. It addresses:

- guidance before coming to the field;
- social distancing;
- guidance for on-field activities;
- hygiene and disinfection;
- concessions and bathrooms;
- guidance for parents and spectators;
- age-specific guidance for younger players; and
- communication of this plan.

PWYBA has reviewed and incorporated the guidance applicable to our organization provided by the state of Minnesota and local youth baseball and softball organizations for the development of this plan, including the [COVID-19 Organized Sports Practice and Games Guidance for Youth and Adults](#) and [MBL/MYAS 2021 Baseball and Softball COVID-19 Safety Guidelines](#). Further resources involved in the development of this plan are found in Appendix A.

Before coming to the field

If anyone in your household is diagnosed with COVID-19, has symptoms of COVID-19, or has had a close contact with someone who has COVID-19 as [defined by the MDH](#), please email our COVID-19 administrator at COVID@pwyba.com. The administrator will provide guidance on testing and quarantine, if needed.

Association members are encouraged to self-monitor for signs and symptoms of COVID-19.

- Ensure your player understands social distancing, and why it is important.
- Take the temperature of any player, coach, or volunteer who will be participating in a practice or game.
- **DO NOT** come to the field if anyone in your household has been diagnosed with COVID-19, has **ANY** [symptoms](#) of COVID-19, or has been exposed to a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 or is exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms.
- If your player has been told by school or any organized program or activity that they may have been exposed to COVID-19, please email our COVID-19 administrator at COVID@pwyba.com.
- When COVID-related events are reported, our COVID-19 administrator will provide guidance on quarantining based on current [MDH quarantine guidance](#).
- PWYBA recommends weekly testing for all participants, including players and coaches. MDH is offering [testing support](#) to increase testing of youth sports participants. This recommendation does not apply to fully vaccinated participants.

Social distancing and face coverings

- When possible, all players, coaches, volunteers, umpires, and spectators should practice social distancing of 6 feet from individuals not residing within their household.
- During practices and games, participants should maintain at least 6 feet of separation on the bench or in the dugout. Participants not able to be on the bench or in the dugout should be lined down the foul line or behind the backstop with 6 feet of separation. Teams may bring additional seating (e.g., folding chairs) to facilitate the extended bench/dugout.
 - When 6 feet distance cannot be avoided, players should not remain near each other for extended lengths of time.
- Spectators must maintain social distance of at least 12 feet from the nearest participant and 6 feet between households.
- Face coverings
 - Per [MDH guidance](#), face coverings are recommended to be worn when sports participants (players and coaches) are not actively practicing or playing and cannot maintain physical distancing.
 - While recommended to be worn at all times, spectators are only required to wear face coverings per [MDH's Requirements for Outdoor Venues](#) if the total number of people in attendance exceeds 500. Youth baseball fields are considered outdoor venues by MDH for this purpose.

On-field activities

- Players and coaches should use hand sanitizer both before and after practices and games.
- During games, where possible, each team provides their own balls.
- Distancing should be maintained at all pre-game plate meetings between coaches and umpires.
- Equipment should not be shared unless necessary. If equipment is shared, disinfection should occur as described below.
- Players and coaches should take measures to prevent all but essential contact necessary to play the game. Handshakes, high fives, fist/elbow bumps, etc. should be avoided.
- As a sign of good sportsmanship after a game, teams may line up in front of their dugout or bench and tip their cap to the opposing team.
- Players, coaches, and umpires should bring their own personal drinks and food, and no sharing is permitted.
- No sunflower seeds, chewing gum, or spitting is permitted.
- Players and families should vacate the field/facility as soon as is reasonably possible after the conclusion of a practice or game.
- No post-game or post-practice team snacks or shared team coolers or water supply.
- Umpires may call games from behind home plate if permitted under current guidance.
- **Other communities may have different guidelines than what is set forth in this document, and all PWYBA players, coaches, and spectators must comply with the guidelines of the other communities when visiting.**

Hygiene and disinfection

- Shared equipment, such as catcher's gear and team bats, should be disinfected after each use.
- Hands should be sanitized often with hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol – particularly at arrival and after using shared equipment (bats, catcher's gear, etc.).
- If a player sneezes or coughs into their hands, or otherwise touches their nose or mouth with their hands, they should use hand sanitizer immediately.

Concessions and Bathrooms

- Building bathrooms will be available, and PWYBA will take steps to maintain sanitation during periods of frequent use (e.g., tournaments).
- If concession stands are open, only prepackaged products – e.g., bottled drinks, candy bars, chips, etc. – will be available for purchase.
- Concession stand workers and volunteers are required to wear face coverings at all times.
- Crowds should not form and any lines that form should stay socially distanced.
- When portable bathrooms are on-site, they will be available for use.

Parents and spectators

- Parents/guardians and spectators must maintain 6 feet of distance from any other non-household member.
- Parents/guardians and spectators should not attend practices, with the exception of the age-specific guidance below. Kids should be dropped off and picked up in the parking lot.

- For events that exceed 500 people in attendance, parents/spectators are required to wear face coverings per [MDH's Requirements for Outdoor Venues](#).

Hosted Tournaments

- Spectators should maintain 6 feet of distance from other households.
- Concessions may be open with pre-packaged food and drink only.
- Concession stand workers and volunteers are required to wear face coverings at all times.
- Food and drink should be consumed in a designated area or in the individual's seat.
- Spectators should be distanced from all participants by at least 12 feet.
- While MDH recommends face coverings for spectators at all times, spectators are required to wear masks only if the total number of people in attendance at the venue exceeds 500.

Age-specific guidance for younger players

- Each K-2 team may have one or two non-coach parents/guardians at every practice or game to ensure compliance with these guidelines, particularly equipment disinfection and social distancing compliance. These non-coach parents/guardians can be rotated throughout the season. Other age groups may consider this as well.
- Catcher's equipment will not be provided for players in K and 1st grade leagues to minimize equipment sharing. A player positioned safely away from the batter until a ball is hit may be used as a substitute for the catcher position.
- K-2 parents are permitted at practice as needed to minimize burden on coaches to comply with these guidelines. Teams at other age levels may consider this as well.

Communication of this plan

The COVID-19 Preparedness Plan was communicated to all participants via the PWYBA website and email on April 15, 2021. It was then updated on April 25 and then again on May 11. This Plan will be updated as necessary to align with current guidance from MDH.

All PWYBA participants are expected to monitor how effective the program has been implemented. All participants are to take an active role and collaborate in carrying out the various aspects of this plan, and suggest any updates to the protections, protocols, practices and training as necessary. This COVID-19 Preparedness Plan has been certified by the PWYBA Board of Directors and the plan was on the [PWYBA website](#) and made readily available to participants on May 11, 2021. It will be updated as necessary by the PWYBA COVID Preparedness Plan Administrator.

Certified by:

Ryan Boutwell
PWYBA President
May 11, 2021

Appendix A – Guidance for developing a COVID-19 Preparedness Plan

General

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): Coronavirus (COVID-19) – www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV

Minnesota Department of Health (MDH): Coronavirus – www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus

State of Minnesota: COVID-19 response – <https://mn.gov/covid19>

Businesses

CDC: Resources for businesses and employers – www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/businesses-employers.html

CDC: General business frequently asked questions – www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/general-business-faq.html

CDC: Building/business ventilation – www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html

MDH: Businesses and employers: COVID-19 – www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/businesses.html

MDH: Health screening checklist – www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/facilityhlthscreen.pdf

MDH: Materials for businesses and employers – www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/materialshttps://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/index.html

Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED): COVID-19 information and resources – <https://mn.gov/deed/newscenter/covid/>

Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (DLI): Updates related to COVID-19 – www.dli.mn.gov/updates

Federal OSHA – www.osha.gov

Handwashing

MDH: Handwashing video translated into multiple languages – www.youtube.com/watch?v=LdQuPGVcceg

Respiratory etiquette: Cover your cough or sneeze

CDC: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html

CDC: www.cdc.gov/healthywater/hygiene/etiquette/coughing_sneezing.html

MDH: www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/prevention.html

Social distancing

CDC: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html

MDH: www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/businesses.html

Housekeeping

CDC: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html

CDC: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/disinfecting-your-home.html

CDC: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/cleaning-disinfection.html

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2

Employees exhibiting signs and symptoms of COVID-19

CDC: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html

MDH: www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/basics.html

MDH: www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/facilityhlthscreen.pdf

MDH: www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/returntowork.pdf

State of Minnesota: <https://mn.gov/covid19/for-minnesotans/if-sick/get-tested/index.jsp>

Training

CDC: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-small-business.html

MDH: www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/about.pdf