

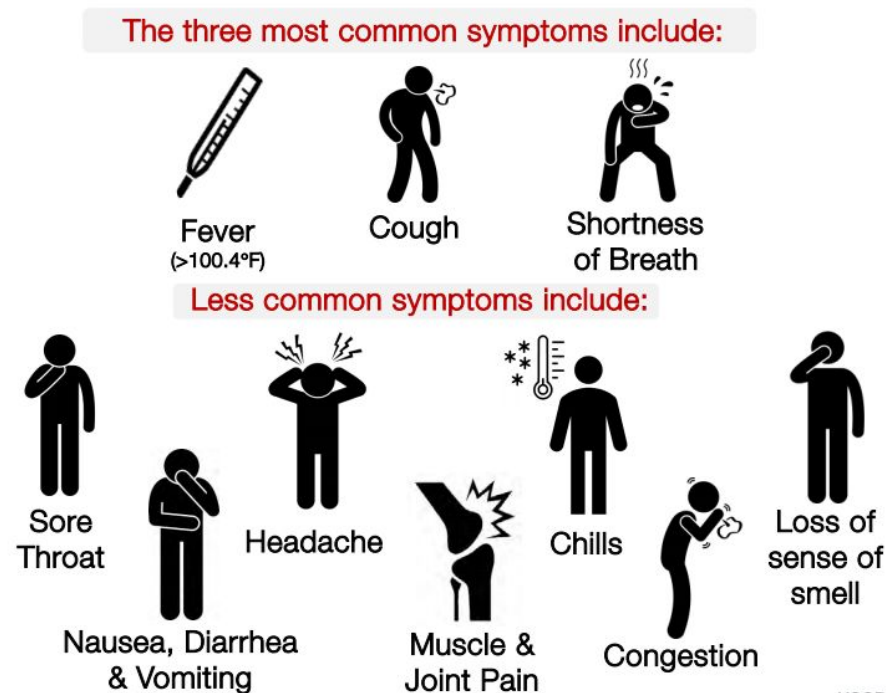
Current Risk Assessment for Tournament Play

Introduction

“COVID-19 is the name of the disease that is caused by the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus-2 (SARS-CoV-2). This is a new virus recently identified in Wuhan, China. Currently there are seven types of Coronavirus that are known to infect humans, four of those commonly circulate in the community and generally result in minor illness such as the common cold. The remaining two are associated with significant illness being Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) and Severe Acute Respiratory Virus (SARS).”

https://ais.gov.au/health-wellbeing/covid-19#covid-19_and_sport_faq

Symptoms of COVID-19:



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Knowing the risks (<https://www.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#cases>)

- Over 2.5 million cases in the US
- 125,484 total deaths in US as of Jun 28, 2020
- 764 cases per 100,000 people

General Safety

There is limited information about return-to-play for adult contact sports in the United States. Although many professional organizations have proposed going back to play, no sport in the United States has as of July 1, 2020.

The NBA has released guidelines for return-to-play, with a season proposed to start July 31, 2020. However, the safety regulations and mitigation protocols put in place are extensive and out of the realm of possibility for USAFL, with the plan including isolating players at Disney and extensive testing

(https://www.espn.com/nba/story/_/id/29321006/in-documents-nba-details-coronavirus-testing-process-orlando-campus-life).

Other leagues such as the MLB and PGA Tour (even though golf is considered low-risk) are also struggling with COVID mitigation through play. (https://www.espn.com/mlb/story/_/id/29362126/inside-mlb-2020-season-plan-play-pandemic-where-go-wrong
https://www.espn.com/golf/story/_/id/29360445/pga-tour-stricter-coronavirus-testing-monitoring)

Travel Risk Management

The biggest hurdle that tournament play will face is the safety of participants who travel from around the United States to play in one location. Because of this, the risk of infection increases dramatically. The CDC classifies cross-country sports in the highest-risk category (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/youth-sports.html>) General travel info from CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-in-the-us.html>)

Current state of each state where an USAFL team exists:

- (<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/us/states-reopen-map-coronavirus.html>)
- By the numbers (<https://www.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#cases>)
- Each state has reported a positivity rate. “The WHO has said that in countries that have conducted extensive testing for COVID-19, should remain at 5% or lower for at least 14 days.” (<https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/testing/individual-states>) This can be applied by state and be a measure of community spread and COVID management.

- 6-8 percent is of note but could be isolated spikes; worth examining. Once rates get to 9-10 percent, this is a warning flag that cases are underreported. Anywhere over 10% could be where a team may have to be cut from a tournament because the odds are that they are bringing asymptomatic player/s.
- <https://www.nbcchicago.com/news/coronavirus/why-pritzker-says-you-should-look-at-positivity-rate-over-total-coronavirus-cases/2266141/>

Live updating tracker:

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/us/coronavirus-us-cases.html>

Last updated July 7th, 2020

State	Teams	Current COVID Stage	Cases per 100k	Positive Tests Over Time (7-day moving average)
Arizona	Arizona Hawks (Men & Women) Arizona Outlaws (Men & Women)	Reopening	1368	25.3%
Arkansas	Little Rock Coyotes (Men)	Pausing	790	9.4%
California	Golden Gate Australian Football (Men & Women) Los Angeles Dragons (Men & Women) Orange County Giants (Men) Sacramento Suns (Men & Women) San Diego Lions (Men)	Reopening	669	7.5%
Colorado	Centennial Tigers (Women) Denver Bulldogs (Men & Women)	Reopening	598	4.9%

District of Columbia	DC Eagles (Men & Women)	Reopening	1492	1.8%
Florida	Fort Lauderdale Fighting Squids (Men) Jacksonville Saints (Men) Tampa Bay Tiger Sharks (Men & Women)	Reversing	940	18.7%
Georgia	Atlanta Kookaburras (Men & Women) Rome Redbacks (Men) Savannah Hurricane	Reopening	908	13.0%
Hawaii	Hawaii Eagles (Men)	Reopening	72	1.6%
Illinois	Chicago Swans Football Club (Men & Women)	Reopening	1156	2.6%
Iowa	Des Moines Roosters (Men & Women)	Reopened	999	8.3%
Louisiana	Baton Rouge Tigers (Men)	Pausing	1400	8.5%
Maine	Maine Cats (Men)	Reopening	255	1.3%
Maryland	Baltimore Dockers (Men & Women)	Reopening	1152	4.6%
Massachusetts	Boston Demons (Men & Women)	Reopening	1593	2.4%
Minnesota	Minnesota Freeze (Men & Women) North Star Blue Ox (Women)	Reopening	680	3.1%
Missouri	Kansas City Power (Men) Saint Louis Blues (Men)	Reopened	389	4.7%
Nevada	Las Vegas Gamblers (Men)	Pausing	739	13.0%
New York	New York Magpies (Men & Women)	Reopening	NYC: 2609 State: 1622	1.1%
North Carolina	North Carolina Tigers (Men)	Pausing	703	6.7%
Ohio	Cleveland Cannons (Men)	Reopening	489	6.5%

	Columbus Cats (Men & Women) Ohio Valley River Rats (Men)			
Oklahoma	Oklahoma Football Club (Men & Women)	Reopened	404	8.2%
Oregon	Portland Australian Football Club (Men & Women)	Pausing	244	5.9%
Pennsylvania	Philadelphia Hawks (Men & Women)	Reopening	737	5.4%
Tennessee	Nashville Kangaroos (Men & Women)	Reopening	758	7.7%
Texas	Austin Crows (Men & Women) Dallas Dingoes (Men & Women) Houston Lonestars (Men & Women)	Reversing	679	13.8%
Utah	Wasatch War Gulls	Reopening	789	9.1%
Virginia	RVA Lions (Men & Women)	Reopening	772	5.0%
Washington	Seattle Grizzlies (Men & Women)	Reopening	476	5.3%
Wisconsin	Milwaukee Bombers (Men) Wisconsin Wombats (Men & Women)	Reopened	543	6.4%

For Nationals, in addition to taking into account where participants are coming from, where participants are going is also an important factor to consider. (<https://covid19.ca.gov/roadmap/#top>)

California is currently early in Stage 2 implementation (<https://covid19.ca.gov/roadmap/#top>)



Stage 2: Lower-risk workplaces

Gradually opening some lower risk workplaces with adaptations at a pace designed to protect public health and safety, starting with:

- Retail
- Manufacturing
- Offices (when telework not possible)
- Outdoor Museums
- Limited Personal Services

Limit time outside the home and travel only for permissible activities, such as healthcare, food, outdoor exercise and recreation (individuals and households only). Stage 1 and 2 work, and local shopping or other activities related to open sectors.

Some counties may move more quickly through stage 2, following guidelines laid out on the [county variance page](#).

Other counties may maintain more restrictive public health measures.

Monitor critical indicators and alter scope of reopening if necessary to protect public health and safety.

They will not allow sporting event with audiences (such as other teams) until Stage 4.



Stage 4: End of stay at home order

Gradually open larger gathering venues at a pace consistent with public health and safety, such as nightclubs, concert venues, and live audience sports.

Gradually resume remaining activities and travel.

Monitor critical indicators and alter scope of reopening if necessary to protect public health and safety.

This roadmap also allows for counties to slow progression through the roadmap based on their current state. Riverside County is where Nationals 2020 is meant to be held. County stats can be found here: <https://www.rivcoph.org/coronavirus> or <https://covid19.ca.gov/roadmap-counties/#track-data>

Once players arrive in the tournament city, these questions should be considered (https://ais.gov.au/health-wellbeing/covid-19#covid-19_and_sport_faq)

- Does each individual/household have their own bedroom?
- Does each individual/household have their own bathroom?
- Is there capacity for individuals to prepare and consume meals both on the field and off?
- What will the team do in the event of the first and subsequent identified cases of COVID-19?
- What will teams that have played another team with an infected player do?

Finally, the last consideration is equality of tournament play across teams. If teams are barred from playing because they come from high-risk areas OR are barred from playing because they have players who are essential medical professionals, then the selection of

teams able to play will be unfair. Additionally, players living in areas that have not yet opened up will have little training time compared to other teams, which could result in a lower level of play and more sports injuries.

Play Risk Management

Adding to the risk mitigation is the inability to socially distance while competing. Taking into account high-contact sports also increases the risk of infection, especially since even if masks are required, the adherence to proper mask application may be limited due to weather and intensity of the sport.

Masks have been shown to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19

(https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fprevent-getting-sick%2Fcloth-face-cover.html), but mask-usage in sports has not been determined. This is because many sports have not returned to full-play. Questions that remain about mask usage while on the field include:

- When masks get wet from excessive sweat and breath or rain, are they no longer effective?
- Will masks be worn properly in competition, including high-contact matches?
- What does removing and replacing masks look like for athletes needing water? Does the increased touching on the face mean increased likelihood of spread?

Current information on when a mask is appropriate can be found here:

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fprevent-getting-sick%2Fcloth-face-cover.html

Below are guidelines from various sources that are applicable to USAFL Return to Play

Category	Guidance on COVID preparedness
General Safety	Adapt practices to allow physical distancing of at least 6 feet between participants, whenever possible
General Safety	Wherever possible, hold activities outdoors and encourage participants to spread out.

Infrastructure	Avoid having areas easily accessible that would allow staff, volunteers, or participants to easily congregate in a limited space.
Infrastructure	<p>Consider using visual cues to illustrate where participants may sit to adhere to social distancing.</p> <p>Consider using visual aids (e.g., painter's tape, stickers) to illustrate traffic flow and appropriate spacing to support social distancing.</p>
General Safety	Community supplies are considered high-touch and should be cleaned frequently. Follow routine disinfection of high-touch items. (balls, racquets, bats, other equipment). Avoid community supplies when possible. If shared supplies are necessary, consider using designated bins for clean and used supplies.
General Safety	<p>Ensure daily cleaning of the program environment. Routine cleaning and disinfecting is key to maintaining a safe environment for staff, volunteers, and participants. Cleaning removes dirt and most germs and is usually done with soap and water. Disinfecting kills most germs, depending on the type of chemical, and only when the chemical product is used as directed on the label. Adapt practices to ensure high-touch surfaces such as doorknobs, stair rails, counters, dining hall tables and benches, program equipment, and other items are regularly cleaned and disinfected. Use EPA-registered household disinfectants recommended by the CDC – Information on Disinfectants: (www.epa.gov/coronavirus).</p>
General Safety	<p>Avoid contact with shared public amenities like picnic tables, benches, and playground equipment. Assume such equipment has not been cleaned. Exercise caution when using drinking fountains. Think carefully about how drinking fountains are being used and how regularly they are being cleaned in making a decision to use them. Consider encouraging participants to use refillable water bottles to avoid direct contact with the fountain equipment. If you do use them,</p>

	<p>ensure there are hand hygiene products available right next to the drinking fountain and encourage users to perform hand hygiene before and after using one.</p> <p>Have staff, volunteers, and participants wash hands or use hand sanitizer if they come into contact or use shared amenities.</p>
Masks	<p>Staff members working in participant programs are encouraged to wear cloth face coverings.</p>
Travel	<p>Be mindful of traveling Ask staff and participants to limit their interaction with local communities when off-site to obtain only essential services; and only allow sparingly or find other ways to get supplies/services. Follow appropriate social distancing and health etiquette measures when interacting with the community. Encourage staff to limit their interactions with others on their time off. Adhere to current travel restrictions ▪ CDC’s Travel Updates for COVID-19 (www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html)</p>
Education	<p>Teach participants and staff to wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after having been in a public place or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Hand Hygiene (www.health.state.mn.us/people/handhygiene/index.html)</p>
Education	<p>Teach participants and staff to always cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw used tissues in the trash. If you don’t have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your arm or elbow. Cover Your Cough (www.health.state.mn.us/people/cyc/index.html)</p>
Education	<p>Teach participants how to wear a mask</p>

Infrastructure	Build routines for staff, volunteers, and participants to wash hands upon arriving, before and after eating meals, before and after applying sunscreen, and when entering or leaving indoor spaces. Consider ways to reinforce good hand hygiene. For example, provide incentives (e.g., creative summer program or camp accolades) for proper and thorough handwashing.
Infrastructure	Have hand sanitizer and tissues readily available for use by staff, volunteers, and participants. Ensure the availability of appropriate cleaning supplies (e.g., disinfectant wipes) for cleaning of high-touch surfaces (see more details below).
Education	Educate staff, volunteers, and participants on the importance of avoiding touching their faces throughout the day, and washing their hands when they do.
Education	Ensure participants aren't sharing water bottles, food, or other items.
Education	Consider engaging program participants in developing communications or creative strategies to limit the spread of COVID-19 (e.g., develop a competition around creating the new camp greeting, providing alternatives to hugs or high-fives). Post posters, use social media, email communication, etc. around symptoms of COVID-19 and health etiquette expectations.
Risk Management	Emphasize the importance of daily health checks. This includes screening for participants, staff, and volunteers to ensure those who develop symptoms are not attending.
Risk Management	Use exclusion guidance and isolate symptomatic staff and program participants. Follow exclusions guidance and ensure staff and participants stay home when sick. Ensure sick policies are supportive

	of participants and staff staying home when sick.
Risk Management	Remind participant's that family spectators should not attend practices. If necessary for them to be at practice, ensure that proper social distancing is maintained.
Meetings and Celebrations	<p>Hold staff and volunteer meetings virtually or in a large enough space to accommodate social distancing.</p> <p>Encourage non-essential planning and preparatory activities be conducted outside program facilities.</p> <p>Refrain from events such as general meetings and celebrations • In order to comply with the distance rules, no social events should be held. • While social distancing remains, team meetings should be held virtually to the best of your ability</p>
Travel	<p>Temporary suspension of car pooling</p> <p>• While social distancing measures are in place, the formation of carpools for training and competitions should be avoided – unless travelling with an existing housemate. The use of minivans is equally unsuitable. Your Club will apply specific policies for travelling to matches based on local legislature when rugby activities are permitted to resume</p>
Education	<p>COVID epidemiology education</p> <p>Those who suffer from underlying illness such as cardiovascular disease, respiratory disease(asthma), diabetes and some forms of cancer appear to be more severely affected by COVID- 19. So too are older individuals (>60) and those who are severely obese (BMI 40+).</p> <p>Information from China and Italy shows that up to 20% of those hospitalized have cardiac involvement – likely thought to be</p>

	myocarditis (inflammation of the heart muscle). Specialist Cardiology review may be required after prolonged hospitalization.
Tournament Organization	<p>Contingency medical response plan includes information about how attendees should interact with the host country healthcare system (e.g. hotline/helpline telephone number, medical teams and first-aid points for the mass gathering, local health care system)?</p> <p>Emergency COVID-19 Outbreak Response Coordinator/Team in the organizing committee or other structure structure for the mass gathering with defined roles and responsibilities, coordinating the health preparedness and response planning for the outbreak</p> <p>Request support from local public health authority (including access to testing sites as needed)</p> <p>Build in contact tracing to inform participants of possible exposure while maintaining health privacy</p> <p>Plan for isolation rooms or mobile isolation rooms onsite</p>

Above information drawn from following sources:

<https://assets.usarugby.org/docs/medical/USAR-R2P.pdf>

[Return to play after COVID-19: a sport cardiologist's view](#)

Minnesota Health Department <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/sportsguide.pdf>

www.WHO.it

www.CDC.gov

National Tournament Go/No-Go Decision Matrix

1. Available treatments and testing	
Critical	Ideal
<p>Effective therapeutics available for outpatient cases</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No proved effective treatments available at this time 	<p>Viable vaccine available for widespread availability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promising vaccine results but no vaccine available Moderna (?) Phase 3 trial recruiting (30k participants) targeting July
<p>Downward case trend in all areas from which teams would travel for 14 days</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Variable and unpredictable at this point 5% or lower positive case rate 	<p>Sustained downward case trend across the United States and provinces of Canada who may wish to participate and Sustained government restrictions</p>
<p>Safety task force confirms (to the best of their ability) that no active player reported any symptoms or came in contact with someone exhibiting symptoms in the last 14 days. USAFL will work in close coordination with club Safety Officers.</p>	<p>Clubs self isolate in the two week period leading up to Nationals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Negative test at Check In Rapid testing availability
<p>Permission from local health authorities</p>	<p>Tight coordination with County Health and Human resources</p>
<p>Safety Officer(s) policing behavior to maximize safety</p>	<p>League appointed Safety Officer Coordinator for each competition pod</p>
<p>Ability for players to compete in PPE to minimize risk</p>	<p>CDC/WHO clears return to full contact sports without PPE</p>

2. Viability of travel and social distancing	
Critical	Ideal
<p>Safe travel practices published from CDC/WHO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current advice is no non-essential travel 	<p>Studies showing PPE is highly effective for preventing transmission on planes/trains/busses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No studies currently available • Avoid all carpooling and close contact with non-family
Venue allows for minimal social distancing	Venue allows for ideal social distancing at all times
Venue allows for spectators to be completely separate from players, staff, and umpires	No non-players/coaches/umpires allowed at the venue
Evidence that similar sized events / tournaments are going ahead as scheduled in October	Tournaments of similar style and size already occurred with no resulting outbreaks or higher case rates related to tournaments participants, audience, and staff or the travel to or from the tournament.
<p>Availability of travel associated necessity such as hotel rooms, rental cars, restaurants to cater to large groups doing take out meals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing rooms with as many, or any other, players may not be an acceptable solution for clubs in the near future. Need considerations for alternatives • No sharing of hotel rooms recommended 	<p>Maximum number of attendees do not rely on public transportation, drive themselves and avoid carpools. Majority of attendees are able to stay within a short distance of the venue to minimize contact while in transit. Ideally within the same County as Venue.</p>
<p>Set up of 'pods' with competing teams being assigned to same hotels or group of hotels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considerations needed for clubs with mens and womens teams 	Complete isolation of competition pods in hotels and restaurants

3. Financial viability (number of clubs attending, dues paid, changes in cost to any of the resources we provide)

Critical	Ideal
<p>X% of clubs willing and able to attend with full teams</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be completed by the Board 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be completed by the Board
<p>Sufficient notice for clubs to properly fundraise, plan, and travel safely</p>	<p>Clubs have funds available to travel, stay, and compete safely with all players without the need for further fundraising</p>
<p>Minimum number of Umpires attending to cover all matches for attending teams</p>	<p>Sufficient umpires to cover all matches within the competition pods. Umpires stay with the pod at all times</p>
<p>Minimize crossing of pods from an A side to a B side or vice versa. Rosters may need to expand to absorb injuries.</p>	<p>No crossing of pods from A side to B or vice versa</p>
<p>Combination teams isolate to a pod. No players shared across combination teams.</p>	<p>Combination teams set prior to Nationals. No sharing of players across pods.</p>