



# Softball Saskatchewan Return to Play Protocols and Guidelines

Updated January 28, 2022

Please note, the information contained in this document is subject to change at any time based on new or updated information provided by the Saskatchewan Health Authority and the Government of Saskatchewan.

## **NEW PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER**

**Effective Friday, January 28, residents who receive a positive test result on a PCR or rapid antigen test will be required to self-isolate for five days, regardless of vaccination status.** You are required to self-isolate for five days from the date of test or 24 hours after fever has resolved without the aid of fever-reducing medications and all other symptoms have been improving for at least 48 hours, whichever is later. Previously, unvaccinated residents who had tested positive were required to self-isolate for 10 days.

**Close contacts of positive COVID-19 cases will no longer be required to self-isolate, regardless of vaccination status.**

If you are a close contact to a confirmed COVID-19 case, you should self-monitor for symptoms and continue to use publicly available rapid antigen tests for asymptomatic surveillance.

Parents and caregivers are no longer required to notify schools about positive test results for the purposes of close contact notification. Those who test positive are required to self-isolate and will be absent from school and activities for the duration of the self-isolation period.

If you are currently self-isolating for 10 days because you are an unvaccinated confirmed case or a close contact of a case, you may be able to amend your self-isolation period as of noon, January 28<sup>th</sup>, in accordance with this policy if asymptomatic. If you are symptomatic, you must continue to self-isolate until your symptoms resolve.

All residents should be self-monitoring, self-testing, and self-managing to help prevent transmission, given the transmissibility of the Omicron variant.

## **SELF-MONITORING FOR COVID-19**

If you are experiencing mild, cold-like symptoms, including cough, sore throat, sneezing without fever, it is recommended that you stay home and [care for your symptoms](#), use rapid antigen testing and self-isolate based on a positive result. Free rapid antigen tests are available at more than [600 locations](#) around the province at this time, with Indigenous Services Canada receiving a supply for First Nations communities.

If you are experiencing significant or worsening cold or flu-like symptoms including fever or are considered at-risk due to chronic/underlying health conditions, contact HealthLine 811 who will advise if you should receive a PCR test or if you are a candidate for [available treatments](#). [PCR testing](#) remains available to healthcare workers and eligible at-risk groups.

## **PUBLIC HEALTH-ORDER REMAINS INEFFECT**

Under the current public health orders, masking is mandatory in all indoor public spaces including schools; mandatory self-isolation is required for all confirmed cases; and proof of vaccination or negative test requirements are in place for public access to a list of establishments, businesses, and event venues. The current public health orders are available at [saskatchewan.ca/covid-19](https://saskatchewan.ca/covid-19).

Municipalities, businesses, workplaces, and event organizers may also require proof of vaccination or negative testing beyond those places that are described in the public health order.

### **MINOR SOFTBALL**

From the PHO - Section 4: Face Coverings in Enclosed Settings - Clause c (x)

Individuals under the age of 18 (i.e., 17 & under) are exempt from wearing masks while participating in sporting activities for the duration of the sport or activity only.

This exemption does not cover: Players, Coaches or others not actively participating - masks must be in place unless you are an active athlete during any game or practice.

Umpires - even while active in the game, masks must be worn at all times

### **ADULT SOFTBALL**

From the Public Health Order - Section 4: Face Coverings in Enclosed Settings - Clause c (ix)

Individuals 18 years of age or older while participating in a sporting activity, for the duration of the activity only, are exempt from wearing a mask as long as they are subject to an organization wide proof of vaccination policy.

### **IMPLEMENTING PROOF OF VACCINES REQUIREMENTS**

Adult Member Organizations and those serving athletes 18+ may ONLY participate “mask free” if they implement an organization wide mandatory proof of vaccination policy. While this would allow adults to play while un-masked there are liability, legal and logistical considerations that need to be understood before taking such action.

### **HANDLING POSITIVE COVID CASES**

If you are notified of a positive case, you are advised to seek guidance from Public Health to manage it and any close contacts that may need to be considered.

### **VACCINATION POLICY**

Effective January 6, 2022, Softball Saskatchewan has implemented a proof of vaccination policy for indoor Softball Saskatchewan activities only.

We encourage all members to become fully vaccinated as soon as possible. This will support reduced caseloads and help to keep our sport safe.

### **INDOOR SOFTBALL ACTIVITIES**

- Participants should not participate if they are feeling unwell (Please Stay Home).
- Players and coaches are encouraged to screen for COVID-19 symptoms prior to arriving to practice, train and play, using the [self-assessment tool](#) at [saskatchewan.ca/COVID19](https://saskatchewan.ca/COVID19).
- Individual and protective equipment should not be shared. When helmets and bats or other equipment are shared, cleaning and disinfecting is encouraged between each use.

- Follow physical distancing protocols the facility has in place.
- Commonly touched equipment used for practice (e.g., softball) is routinely replaced or disinfected during the course of practice or play.
- Hand sanitizer approved by Health Canada (DIN or NPN), or soap and water handwashing stations should be available for participants and spectators.
- Public washrooms, when available, are cleaned and disinfected regularly, and soap and water or hand sanitizer is available.
- Contact information of the coaches, umpires and players should be recorded by the teams for games and maintained in order to assist with contact tracing for 30 days in the case of a confirmed case of COVID-19. Teams are encouraged to still designate one or more Sanitation Champions on each team to be responsible for contact tracing of players, coaches and umpires if necessary. (See Appendix #1)

### **OUTDOOR SOFTBALL ACTIVITIES**

- Participants should not participate if they are feeling unwell.
- Players and coaches are encouraged to screen for COVID-19 symptoms prior to arriving to practice and play, using the [self-assessment tool](https://www.saskatchewan.ca/COVID19) at [saskatchewan.ca/COVID19](https://www.saskatchewan.ca/COVID19).
- Teams can continue to have normal outdoor practices involving all players and coaches.
- Games and Tournaments are permitted.
- Individual and protective equipment should not be shared. When helmets and bats or other equipment are shared, cleaning and disinfecting is encouraged between each use.
- Commonly touched equipment used for game play (e.g., game ball) is routinely replaced or disinfected during the course of practice or play.
- Umpires may take their normal positioning for games.
- Physical distancing in and around dugouts is encouraged.
- Spectators must remain in designated areas. Masks are not required to be worn, but they may be worn if spectators are more comfortable with that layer of protection.
- Hand sanitizer approved by Health Canada (DIN or NPN) or soap and water handwashing stations should be available for participants and spectators.
- Public washrooms, when available, are cleaned and disinfected regularly, and soap and water or hand sanitizer is available.

### **RETURN TO PLAY AUTHORITIES**

This section identifies the assumptions considered in the drafting of these protocols and guidelines as they relate to the current Government of Saskatchewan Guidelines and Softball Saskatchewan Operating Rules and Policies.

- **All member Associations/Leagues, Teams and umpires must be in compliance with these guidelines. (Violations of these guidelines will result in disciplinary action up to and including suspension).**
- Only sanctioned activities are covered under our Softball Saskatchewan Insurance Program.
- It is assumed that compliance policing will be performed by local and provincial health authorities, local association/league personal, athletes and parents, along with all relevant stakeholders.