



NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

MEMORANDUM

To: Chief Executives
Club Presidents
General Managers
Head Coaches
Head Team Physicians
Head Athletic Trainers
Club Infection Control Officers
Club Counsel

From: NFL Management Council
NFL Football Operations
NFL Player Health and Safety

Date: September 5, 2020

Subject: NFL-NFLPA COVID-19 Protocols for the Regular Season

Attached please find a consolidated set of the NFL-NFLPA COVID-19 Protocols for the 2020 Regular Season. This consolidated document includes the updated Screening and Testing Protocol and slightly updated versions of the other COVID-19 Protocols. We have also attached: (i) the Ownership Group Testing Policy for the 2020 NFL Season, which is unchanged from the version we distributed last week; (ii) an updated Regular Season Testing Cadence summary chart; (iii) a chart summarizing game day testing requirements; (iv) an updated certification form which must be signed by the club ICO, Head Team Physician and the Club's General Manager/Senior Football Executive and submitted to the Management Council (attn: Meghan Carroll) each week, no later than 48 hours after each game, confirming the club has remained in compliance with these Protocols; and (v) an updated spreadsheet for submitting the club's Traveling Party and Game Day Personnel to the league.

We note the following changes to the following Protocols:

- **Screening and Testing Protocol:**
 - Daily Testing for all Tier 1, Tier 2 Individuals (including players) will continue into the regular season until we advise otherwise. The only day that we will not collect specimens for testing is on game day. Players and essential game day personnel (those with Bench or Field Access) will not be tested on game day. All players and game day personnel will be required to provide a specimen for a PCR virus test in the morning on the day before a game (e.g., on Saturday morning before for a Sunday game). For a 1:00 PM game, all collections must be complete no later than 8:30 AM (local time) the day before the game. For a 4:00 PM game or later, all collections must be complete no later than 10:00 AM (local time) the day before the game. For clubs

that travel the day before game day, testing must be complete before traveling. For clubs that travel two days prior to a game, specimen collection for PCR virus testing will take place in the game city on the day before the game. Clubs must notify the league of their intention to travel two days before a game and we will assist in making the necessary arrangements with BRL.

- Should the results of the PCR tests of the specimens collected on the day before game day be delayed or otherwise unavailable as of two (2) hours prior to kickoff, the results of the PCR tests of the specimens collected two (2) days before game day will determine players' and staffs' eligibility to participate in the game. For example, for a 1:00 PM Sunday kickoff, if the results of the Saturday morning PCR tests have not returned by 11:00 AM, the test results from the specimen collected on Friday will control.
- Should the results of the specimen collected on the day before game day be inconclusive, as defined by the parties, and a POC test can be performed so that results would be obtained two (2) or more hours prior to kickoff, the POC test will be performed and those results will determine the player or staff member's eligibility to participate in the game. If a POC test is unable to be performed so that results will be obtained two (2) or more hours prior to kickoff, the player or staff member will be ineligible to participate in the game.
- For the day following a game, Tier 1 and Tier 2 staff (including players) may not enter the club facility unless they require medical treatment or the club has a "short week" (e.g., a Sunday game followed by a Thursday game or Monday game followed by a Sunday game). In those instances, players and tiered staff may enter the club facility following a negative POC test. Clubs should be sure to notify their BRL local coordinator if they intend to bring players and staff in for POC testing on the day after game day for entry to the facility to schedule testing time. In all other instances, on the day following a game all players and tiered staff should provide a specimen for PCR testing and may engage in either virtual activity or be given a day off.
- Any tiered individual (including players) who has a documented positive PCR test on or after June 1, 2020 is exempt from further virus testing for a period of 90 days from the date of the documented positive test. At the expiration of the 90-day period, the individual will be tested once per week until they report a negative test result. Once he or she returns one negative test, that person will be returned to the normal testing cadence for his or her tier. Any positive test after two consecutive negative tests will be treated as a new positive test and subject to the Treatment Response Protocol.

- The testing cadence for “Street” Free Agents and Tryouts has been clarified. In order for a “street” free agent to enter a club facility for a tryout, physical examination, or to sign a contract and participate with a club, he must have two (2) negative PCR tests, taken 24 hours apart (on Days 1 and 2), a negative POC test (on Day 3). The player may enter the facility for any of the purposes outlined above following a negative POC test on Day 3.
- The testing cadence for players acquired from other clubs has also been clarified. If a club acquires a player directly from another club (e.g., waivers, trade, or signed off of another club’s Practice Squad), and the player has not missed a day of the daily testing regimen, the player must return two (2) negative virus tests, one of which may be a POC test on the day of entry, each taken after the player’s arrival in the new club city, before the player may take a physical or enter the club facility and participate with his club. In other words, the player may take a PCR test on Day 1, and a POC test on Day 2, and may enter on Day 2 if both tests are negative. Any player who is terminated and re-signed by the same club and does not miss a test and does not leave the terminating club’s city will not be required to undergo any additional testing before rejoining the club.
- **Game Day Protocol — Home Team:**
 - The Protocol has been amended to require all coaches and players for the home team to stay in the team hotel the night before a game. The Team Travel Protocol requirements will apply to that stay.
- **Game Day Protocol — Bench Area:**
 - Although face coverings for players on the sidelines are strongly recommended, but not required, by the Game Day Protocol, certain state and local regulations will require players who are not actively engaged in play to wear face masks while on the sidelines. Currently, those regulations exist in San Francisco and Buffalo. We will continually monitor the state and local regulations and provide periodic updates but for now, all players on the sidelines for games in San Francisco and Buffalo must wear face coverings.
- **Game Day Protocol — Practice Squad Players:**
 - Practice Squad players are prohibited from entering the Players’ Locker Room or accessing the field at any time on game day. Clubs may not include them as part of the designated 65 Bench Area Access Personnel.
- **Game Day Protocol — Locker Room Access:**
 - The Game Day Protocol limits Player Locker Room access to **40 individuals** (plus the 53 Players with Bench Access) while players are present. That maximum number

remains unchanged. In order to qualify for Locker Room Access an individual must have Bench Area Access and fall within the following categories: (i) Coaching Staff; (ii) Athletic Training Staff; (iii) Equipment Staff; (iv) **General Manager (Maximum of 1)**; (v) Team Security (Maximum of 1); and (vi) Club Public Relations/Communications (Maximum of 1). All of these individuals count toward the 40-person maximum.

- In addition, clubs will be given an exemption to permit one (1) COVID Protocol Coordinator to access the Locker Room while Players are present to assist in the management of the Kinexon devices and disinfecting the Locker Room. This individual will not count against the 40-person maximum and must be tested in accordance with the Screening and Testing Protocol.
- **Game Day — Coin Toss Procedure:**
 - Each team is permitted to send only one (1) representative out for the coin toss. Face coverings will be required for all coin toss participants.
 - Club media, NFL Films personnel and Network personnel with Field Access are permitted to cover the coin toss provided they remain four (4) yards away at all times and wear appropriate PPE.
- **Travel Protocol:**
 - Clubs will not be permitted to travel to an away game city on the day of a game.
 - The Protocol has also been clarified to provide that members of the Traveling Party are prohibited from congregating, visiting or mingling with individuals outside of the Traveling Party once they have arrived in the game city.
 - Traveling teams must hold at least three (3) hotel rooms in the game city until after they have boarded transportation for their home city and confirmed that no member of their Traveling Party has tested positive for or developed symptoms of COVID-19.
 - The NFL has retained Star Solutions, a private air-charter service, to stand ready to transport club and league personnel home should they develop symptoms of or test positive for COVID-19 while on the road. The cost of transporting club personnel will be borne by the club. Should a club require air transport services, the club ICO should contact Eric Kerzner at the NFL Management Council at (212) 450-2323 or (347) 907-0148
- **Facilities Protocol:**
 - The Protocol has been updated to permit clubs to seek approval to increase the capacity of their weight rooms if they have space sufficient to permit more than 15 players to

work out at a time and still practice physical distancing. If a club wishes to increase its weight room capacity, it should submit a supplemental IDER to the NFL Management Council. The request will be subject to approval by ICS, the NFL and the NFLPA. Clubs may not increase access to their weight room until they have received the required approvals.

Finally, all Travel Party, Game Day Personnel and Game Day testing lists should be submitted to the league office using a smart sheet, which can be found at the following link: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/47da9f20c6664880bc04d5b9d4539095>. You may also use the attached template to drop in to the smartsheet once you have opened it. Please discontinue use of the Drop Box files we previously distributed.

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To review these updated Protocols, we will host a Zoom call for all club Infection Control Officers, Head Athletic Trainers and Head Team Physicians on Monday, September 8 at 8:30 PM EST. Three (3) additional participants per club may also join; we would ask the club ICO to share the invitation with these additional participants. We would appreciate you submitting any questions you may have in advance to Molly Delaney (molly.delaney@nfl.com) by 4:00 PM EST on Monday. We look forward to speaking with you on Monday.