Professional Sports Competitions with No Fans

If you operate a professional sports team in New York City, new mandates from New York State require you to do the following at the start of Phase 4:

- Develop a Safety Plan and post it at your work site.
- Read New York State (NYS) guidelines and affirm compliance.
- The State requires that you affirm that you have reviewed and understand the State-issued industry guidelines and that you will implement them. You can fill out the affirmation form here.

View the full list of requirements on the State website to make sure you are in compliance, and protect employees and customers by taking the following steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19:

1. Stay Home if Sick
   Unless you are leaving for essential medical care (including testing) or other essential errands, stay home if sick. You can also consider implementing additional actions like the ones below to encourage those who are sick to stay home:
   - Post the Stop the Spread poster in employee areas. Additional languages are available on nyc.gov/health/coronavirus or by calling 311 to order a copy.
   - Perform health screening remotely before employees and players arrive, where possible.
   - Perform pre-travel screening for any teams travelling.

2. Physical Distancing
   Stay at least 6 feet away from other people. You can also consider implementing additional actions like the ones below to keep physical distance:
   - Close non-essential communal areas/amenities that promote gathering.
   - Stagger work schedules for employees, where possible stagger arrival of teams and players.
● At facility reception desks, consider using barriers like plastic shield walls between employees and players or other staff. Post markers using tape or signs that denote 6 feet of spacing.

● Try to schedule employee or team meetings and training sessions by phone or online.

● Ensure 6 feet of distance between players, staff, and media by using empty stands for extra seating; space out lockers as well.

● Ensure distancing during all team travel to and from the venue, to the extent possible.

3. Wear a Face Covering

Protect those around you. You can be contagious without symptoms and spread the disease when you cough, sneeze or talk. A face covering can help reduce the spread of COVID-19. You can also consider implementing additional actions like the ones below to encourage the use of face coverings:

● Have extra face coverings on site, in case players or staff forget them.

● Provide eye protection and gloves to staff, such as athletic trainers, who will have close contact with players.

● Place receptacles around the facility for disposal of soiled items, including face coverings.

● Wear appropriate face coverings when in transit - such as on team buses or planes.

4. Practice Healthy Hand Hygiene

Wash your hands often with soap and water or use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available; clean frequently touched surfaces regularly; avoid touching your face with unwashed hands; and cover your cough or sneeze with your sleeve, not your hands. You can also consider implementing additional actions like the ones below to help maintain healthy hand hygiene:

● Encourage showering at home or hotel, instead of at the venue locker room.

● Prohibit spitting in the venue.

● Place hand sanitizer in convenient locations.

● Clean towels, uniforms, clothes on-site and minimize the number of people who must touch them.

The NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) has created plain language Frequently Asked Questions for each sector re-opening in Phase 4, in adherence with the New York State guidance.