



ATHLETICS

Responsible Protocols for Tennis

Tennis Courts

Mandatory

- **Post information throughout the facility to remind players and others to take steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19. These messages should include information about:**
 - Staying home if you are sick or do not feel well.*
 - Maintain six-foot or more social distancing between individuals in all areas.
 - Not gathering in groups.
 - Players should not loiter.
 - Wearing a mask or face covering when entering buildings or interacting in close proximity to other players, practicing good personal hygiene including washing hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, using hand sanitizer, refraining from touching eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands, coughing and sneezing into an elbow, etc.
- **Maintain public restrooms and locker rooms to lower risk of spread of virus.**
- Remove any casual seating other than benches by lockers as necessary.
- Restrooms will be cleaned and disinfected every two hours during scheduled programming using EPA-registered disinfectants, particularly on high-touch surfaces such as faucets, toilets, doorknobs and light switches
- Drinking fountains are not operational. Bring your own water bottle.

Closures, modifications and limitations:

- Establish maximum capacity that allows for six feet physical distancing.
- In accordance with current orders, close any non-essential areas where people could potentially congregate.
- No team water coolers or shared drinking stations.

Maintaining Distance in outdoor spaces

- In areas of concern, mark six-foot spacers to help customers visualize safe distancing.
- In areas with a lot of cross traffic, direct pedestrian traffic to enter/exit these locations in specific ways or indicate one-way traffic wherever possible.

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Recommended Best Practices

- **Maintain public restrooms and locker rooms to lower risk of spread of virus.**
- Post a cleaning schedule at each location
- Install touch-free entry points at restrooms and other facilities.
- Install touchless sensors on sinks and hand dryers.

Closures, modifications and limitations:

- Facilities may determine if masks are required to enter common spaces or may be made available to guests entering common spaces based on the facility.
- Post directional signage to encourage separation of entrances and exits.
- Use every other court, if possible.
- Remove common touchable surfaces (water coolers, counters, towel racks, etc.).
- Minimize court activity; for example, limit court activities to casual court rental, one-on-one coaching, small groups, and private lessons.
- Postpone any social gatherings or large outings.
- Alter practices in socializing areas to meet social distancing.

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Mandatory

Tennis Courts (cont)

Be as flexible as possible with staff attendance and sick-leave policies. Remind staff to stay at home if they are sick. Isolate and send home anyone who exhibits fever, cough, or shortness of breath.

- Employees must perform daily symptom assessment, including assessing for symptoms and taking your temperature with a thermometer and monitoring for fever.*
- Require employees to stay at home if symptomatic and perform daily symptom assessment requirements before returning to work.
- Businesses must require all employees to wear facial coverings, except for one of the following reasons:
 - Facial coverings in the work setting are prohibited by law or regulation.
 - Facial coverings are in violation of documented industry standards.
 - Facial coverings are not advisable for health reasons.
 - Facial coverings are in violation of the business' documented safety policies.
 - Facial coverings are not required when the employee volunteer works alone in an assigned work area.
 - There is a functional (practical) reason for an employee/volunteer not to wear a facial covering in the workplace.
- (Businesses must provide written justification, upon request, explaining why an employee is not required to wear a facial covering in the workplace. At minimum, facial coverings
- (masks) should be cloth/fabric and cover an individual's nose, mouth, and chin.)
- Company vehicles, equipment, break rooms, bathrooms, and other common areas must be cleaned and disinfected after every use.
- Implement staggered employee entry, working in assigned teams, varied arrival and departure and staggered breaks to avoid interaction or grouping among staff.

Recommended Best Practices

Follow all appropriate guidance for customer interaction, retail sales and equipment rentals.

- Regularly provide customers with up-to-date information about COVID-19 and related business procedures and policies. Communicate the importance of practicing preventive actions.
- Where available, use online solutions for reservations, waivers or payment.
- Install touch-free entry points to buildings where possible.
- Create self-sanitizing stations by making hand sanitizer, soap, and water, or effective disinfectant available to the public at or near the entrance of facilities and **at any locations where people have direct interactions and near high-touch surfaces.**

Be as flexible as possible with staff attendance and sick-leave policies. Remind staff to stay at home if they are sick. Isolate and send home anyone who exhibits fever, cough, or shortness of breath.

- Encourage 3rd-party delivery staff to wait outside or in non-congested areas practicing social distancing guidelines. Encourage 3rd-party delivery staff to wear face coverings.
- Educate on proper use, disposal, and maintenance of face coverings. Enhance education on proper use of gloves, per code.
- Health checks may include temperature assessments, questionnaires, employee self-checks, screening app or other tools. Update files with log of "health checks."
- Conduct telephone symptom assessment for employees who were ill and planning to return to work.

Coaches

- Must conduct daily symptom assessments by coaches and players (self-evaluation). Anyone experiencing symptoms must stay home.
- No touch rule – coaches should refrain from high fives, handshake lines, and other physical contact with teammates, opposing players, coaches, umpires, and fans. A "tip the cap" can be used following the game in lieu of the handshake line.
- Must ensure that players are following COVID-19 -related prevention measures included herein.

- Coaches should ensure the players are adhering to social distancing on the bench.
- Whenever possible, equipment and personal items should have proper separation and should not be shared. If equipment has to be shared, proper sanitation must be administered between users.

Referees/ Officials

- Stay home if you are sick or do not feel well.
- Wear a mask or face covering when entering buildings or interacting in close proximity to others.
- Avoid exchanging documents or equipment before, during or after the event.
- Adhere to social distancing practices when interacting with players, coaches, and spectators on or off the court.

- Digital check-in and registration for all events.
- Officials should stand behind a barrier, if possible.

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Mandatory

Recommended Best Practices

Players

- Stay home if you are sick or do not feel well.
- Arrive no more than 10 minutes early or wait in designated waiting areas or in your car.
- Follow instructions and signs when checking in, ordering food, beverages, etc.
- Wait until called to the court or until the group ahead of you has clearly left the court.
- Use social distancing and maintain at least six-feet between individuals in all areas.
- Do not gather in groups of more than 10.
- Do not touch other players' racquets, tennis balls, gear, etc.
- Avoid using your hand to pick up balls; use your racquet/ foot to pick up balls to hit back to your opponent or another court.
- Use your own tennis balls (for example, clearly mark yours or use a different color).
- Perform health self-assessment. (check temperature before leaving home. No new cough.)

- Book court times by phone or on-line.
- Allow space between cars in the parking lot.
- Wear a mask or face covering when entering buildings or interacting in close proximity to others.
- Practice good personal hygiene including washing hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, using hand sanitizer, refraining from touching eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands, coughing and sneezing into an elbow, etc.
- Avoid touching gates, fences, benches, etc.
- Bring trash bags, food, water and supplies. Plan to carry in and carry out trash and other items.
- Avoid using locker rooms or changing areas.

Spectators

- Stay home if you are sick or do not feel well.
- Arrive no more than 10 minutes early or wait in designated waiting areas or in your car.
- Follow instructions and signs when checking in, ordering food, beverages, etc.
- Use social distancing and maintain at least six-feet between individuals in all areas.
- Do not gather in groups of more than 10.
- Do not enter player areas.

- Wear a mask or face covering when entering buildings or interacting in close proximity to others.
- Practice good personal hygiene including washing hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, using hand sanitizer, refraining from touching eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands, coughing and sneezing into an elbow, etc.
- Bleachers and other high-contact seating areas can be removed or closed, if possible.

Resources

- U.S. Tennis Association (USTA) Midwest Region
- Swim and Racquet Club (Columbus, OH); Upper Arlington, OH Parks and Recreation Department

WHAT WE WILL DO IF A COVID-19 INFECTION IS IDENTIFIED:

- **Immediately report employee or customer infections to the local Board of Health.**
- **Work with the local Board of Health to identify potentially exposed individuals.**
- **Facilitate appropriate communication/contact tracing. Shutdown for deep sanitation and cleaning.**
- **Reopen in consultation with the local Board of Health.**

*Per the CDC, symptoms include cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, and new loss of taste or smell.