

Tourism, Heritage & Culture – Sport & Recreation Branch

The answers provided in this document reflect the Branch’s efforts to provide as much clarity and guidance to our partners in the Recreation and Sport sector based on feedback from public health, requirements noted in the Mandatory Order, content that is and/or was available on the GNB webpage, feedback that was developed through the response process associated with the early stakeholder engagement calls, and content that reflects good interpretation of requirements associated with Operational Plans. The situation is fluid and the information changes regularly. The onus is on each organization to understand the restrictions set out by the Province as well as the recommendations and requirements of Public Health and the Guidelines for New Brunswick Workplaces issued by WorkSafe NB.

The health and safety of our citizens is of paramount priority, and the public is strongly encouraged to visit the Province’s dedicated COVID-19 website for the most current information: www.gnb.ca/coronavirus .

COVID-19 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS *** October 16 th , 2020***		
ALERT LEVEL	GUIDANCE FOR REGIONS IN ALERT LEVEL ORANGE	GUIDANCE FOR REGIONS IN ALERT LEVEL YELLOW
1. Where can I find information on GNB COVID-19 response?	www.gnb.ca/coronavirus and Frequently Asked Questions	
2. Is organized sport allowed?	No. Organized Sport is not allowed in the Orange alert level (neither indoor or outdoor). More information is available in this document	Yes. Organized sports may operate as long as they identify means to limit the number and intensity of close contacts during play.
3. If an individual travelled to a region in an orange Zone (currently Zone 1 and 5), are they allowed to return to their organized sport activities in a yellow zone?	<p>While guidance concerning this question continues to evolve, the current advice for individuals who travelled to an orange zone for non-essential reasons or hosted someone from the orange zone starting Saturday, October 10th are to follow orange zone restrictions and guidelines for 14 days before returning to their activities in the yellow zone. This does not need to apply to other household members who did not travel.</p> <p>Each of us are individually responsible to follow public health guidance to ensure public safety, however, organizations can adopt stricter requirements to mitigate risk if they feel it is required.</p> <p>See zones here: Regional Health Authorities</p>	
4. If an individual travels outside of the Atlantic bubble are they allowed to return to their organized sport activities in the yellow zone?	<p>No, except for an individual who must travel outside of the Atlantic bubble for essential reasons in which case their family members would also be allowed to participate in organized sport.</p> <p>Any individual who travels outside of the Atlantic bubble for non-essential reasons must self-isolate for 14 days before returning to their activities.</p>	

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5. What facilities and outdoor venues are allowed to open?	<p>Outdoor recreational activities are allowed, including campgrounds, ATV or snowmobile trails. This also includes Golf Courses, tennis courts and marinas.</p> <p>Gym and fitness facilities remain closed, including other similar sport or recreation business or facilities.</p> <p>Municipal and School outdoor fields are allowed to open at the discretion of the facility owner for free play in smaller groups as per current restrictions. This includes playgrounds, dog parks and similar outdoor areas.</p>	All facilities and outdoor venues are allowed to open.
6. Do municipalities, schools and facility owners have the right to not open recreation and sport facilities even if the restrictions are lifted?	Yes. Once restrictions are lifted, the opening of recreation and sport facilities is at the discretion of the facility owners.	
7. How many participants are allowed in a facility or on an outdoor field for organized recreation and sport activities?	<p>Not applicable for indoor facilities</p> <p>Outdoor gatherings with physical distancing of 10 people or fewer.</p> <p>Avoid indoor gatherings outside of bubble.</p>	<p>Organized sport is considered a controlled activity and as such does not require the 50 person limit as do 'gatherings'. "Gathering" which is referred to in the GNB mandatory order implies common intent or purpose associated with socializing, celebration, ceremony or entertainment.</p> <p>Occupancy of any facility must be based on the ability to maintain physical distancing between people that are not close friends and family. Venues with indoor events with controlled entry and/or controlled seating, are required to capture contact information on persons using the facility.</p> <p>Owners and occupiers of land and/or buildings must take all reasonable steps to prevent gatherings of more than 50 persons unless effective procedures ensure adequate screening and distancing as required by WorkSafe NB and the Chief Medical Officer of Health.</p>

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8. Are organizations required to collect information on the participants that take part in their activities?	Organized Sports are NOT allowed.	<p>Yes. The current mandatory order requires that organizations maintain a record of the names and contact information of all persons who attend and must make those records available to Public Health Inspectors upon request.</p> <p>For more guidance: Collection of names and contact information under the Mandatory Order COVID-19</p>
9. Is my organization required to maintain 2m physical distancing measures during its activities?	Organized sports are NOT allowed.	<p>All reasonable attempts shall be made to respect physical distancing measures as much as possible except brief incidental contact on or off the field, arenas, gyms, rinks, etc.</p> <p>The Sport and Recreation Branch continues to work with the Department of Health to for a potential further lessening of restrictions. The expectation continues to remain that sports are required to adapt to the public health measures, including physical distancing, both during and pre/post game play (except for incidental, brief contact).</p>
10. Is my organization allowed to have day camps?	<p>Day camps are allowed. Sport day camps must operate according to the Guidance to Early Learning and Childcare Facilities and Day Camps as well as the expectations for the particular sport (including maintaining physical distancing) involved as established by the relevant provincial sport association. FAQs for Summer Camps</p> <p>Day camps offered in the Orange alert level are for daycare purposes in case schools close – they should not be used as a way to circumvent the fact that organized sport is not allowed</p> <p>Overnight camps are NOT allowed.</p>	Overnight camps are allowed
11. Is my organization allowed to group participants in “bubbles” where they wouldn’t need to maintain physical distancing?	Organized Sports are NOT allowed.	<p>At this time, “bubbles” are not permitted for sports based on public health evidence (current and emerging) associated with transmission of COVID-19 and the risk mitigation measures to protect community and sport-participant health.</p> <p>However, sports that occur in pairs only (e.g., martial arts) may proceed without physical distancing within each pair, but only in cases where pairs are consistent (members of each pair are not interchangeable), and where pairs are mutually-agreed members of a common and limited ‘close friends and family bubble’.</p>

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12. How does the indoor mask policy impact organized sport and facility operators?	<p>For sport (Yellow zones only): While masks are not required by individuals while participating in an organized sport, they must be worn at all other times, including between practices and games, etc. Spectators must wear masks at all times. If some sports are able to incorporate wearing a mask into play, this will be encouraged. Participants are not required to wear masks while on the team bench during game play, but if feasible, this should be enabled. Where participants are not wearing masks on the team bench during game play, ensure participants are being rotated; any participant not in rotation should wear a mask. Masks will be required in dressing rooms, combined with 1 metre minimum physical distancing between individuals.</p> <p>For fitness facilities (Yellow zones only): While masks are not required by individuals while participating in an indoor fitness activity that requires exertion they must be worn at all other times, including walking from one station to another where there is higher likelihood of coming in contact with another patron. If wearing a mask is possible for some fitness activities, this will be encouraged. Masks are required in dressing rooms, combined with 1 metre minimum physical distancing between individuals.</p> <p>For offices: Employees would be required to wear a mask in all common areas of a public building or office; such as lobbies, staircases, hallways, washrooms, and elevators, or otherwise when interacting with the public. In the workplace of a public building (e.g., workstations, office, cubicle), employees are not required to wear a mask if they are able to work 2 metres of each other and where they are not interacting with members of the public (patrons, customers, clients, general public). Review paragraph 15 of the Mandatory Order for detail.</p> <p>For meeting spaces: For rental spaces in a public venue, the facility operators may want to consider whether they can ensure that those renting the meeting room are following the mask use guidelines and practicing physical distancing within the room. This would need to be detailed in a COVID-19 operational plan. The same considerations noted above will also apply. If the facility determined that the meeting spaces and office spaces were appropriate places for masks to not be worn by specified users, they would want to clarify that masks would be required in all other aspects of the venue. Masks would be worn up until and upon entry into the meeting room or office space and would be reapplied once an individual got up to leave that space. Physical distancing is required at all times, with or without masks.</p> <p>For more information: Mandatory Masks - FAQ ; Use of Community Face Mask</p>	
13. Can face shields be worn instead of a face mask?	<p>A face shield may be used in addition to a face mask and may offer value in their added ability to protect the eyes from potential exposure to COVID-19 contaminated respiratory particles, but when worn alone, face shields are insufficient and do not replace, or substitute, face masks.</p>	
14. If my activity can't be done with physical distancing measures, can the participants just wear masks?	<p>In some activities, wearing a non-medical mask (NMM) may not be practical or tolerable, e.g., when playing active sports there might be a risk of poor oxygenation, easily soiled/moistened due to sweating/heavy breathing, or risk from injury if the mask is caught on equipment. Also, for NMMs to be of benefit, they need to be worn correctly. Failing to do so may present a risk rather than a benefit. For sports where a face shield can be used (e.g. hockey), a face shield may be considered.</p>	

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	Anyone who is in a public area, where physical distancing of two metres cannot be maintained, should wear a face covering that covers their nose and mouth unless they are a child under the age of two or if they cannot wear one for medical reasons. For sport and recreation facilities, general guidance would be for patrons to wear them while not conducting the activity (e.g. entrance/exits and spectators)	
15. Is there guidance available for facility owners on the use of locker/change rooms?	Gym and fitness facilities remain closed, including other similar sport or recreation business or facilities.	For the use of locker/change rooms, a 1 metre distance must be maintained with continuous mask use and occupancy should be addressed by taking into consideration that in any enclosed, indoor space with unknown or poor ventilation quality, risk of transmission may be heightened. Additional considerations could include staggered scheduling, opening additional rooms for change room usage, changing at home as much as possible, wearing face masks for an added layer of transmission protection.
16. Is there guidance available for facility owners on the use of showers?	Gym and fitness facilities remain closed, including other similar sport or recreation business or facilities.	Although there is no specific guidance related to shower usage, it is believed that higher-humidity conditions increase droplet formation and dispersion. Greater cleaning and disinfection may be advised within these settings. Additional considerations could include limiting the use of communal showers to only one patron at a time and limiting the use of showers to user groups that require them (morning practices prior to school).
17. The government recently announced a change to the 2 metre physical distancing requirements to 1 metre. When is this applicable?	Gym and fitness facilities remain closed, including other similar sport or recreation business or facilities.	Physical distancing may be reduced to 1 metre at venues where seating is provided for employees, patrons and/or visitors when community face masks are used at all times. <u>The 1 metre rule only applies in the areas of the venue where seating is provided.</u> There are no exceptions to this rule including persons exempt from the requirement to wear a face covering by the Chief Medical Officer of Health such as children and/or for medical reasons. The consumption of food and drinks is not permitted in these seating areas. If a venue permits face coverings to be removed for any reason, including the consumption of food or drink, a 2 metre distance must be maintained unless appropriate engineering controls have been implemented per guidelines from WorkSafeNB. The 1 metre rule does not apply in any part of the venue where seating is not provided such as line-ups, stairwells, hallways or in areas where food is consumed.

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		<p><u>Capacity and the use of the facilities will be based on what the business can safely accommodate.</u></p> <p>This will be determined through the establishment of a COVID-19 Operational Plan that addresses, but is not limited to, physical distancing, cleaning and disinfecting, hand and respiratory hygiene, and pre-screening for symptoms.</p>
18. Is there any guidance available for facility owners for fitness activities?	Gym and fitness facilities remain closed, including other similar sport or recreation business or facilities.	<p>In addition to the usual risk mitigation measures (physical distancing, cleaning & disinfection, etc), additional considerations could include adjusting classes sizes based on the intensity of the activity and the ventilation quality and assigning designated areas so that participants can move freely without impeding on other participants.</p> <p>Although not all of the information in the Ontario Guidance for facilities for sports and recreational fitness activities during COVID-19 document is applicable in New Brunswick it may be a useful resource for facility owners.</p>
19. Can my organization host games or competitions?	<p>Organized Sports are NOT allowed.</p> <p>Note: for regions in orange/red alert level phase, organized sport cannot occur, nor can individuals who reside within a region that is in orange or red phase travel outside of the region to a yellow phase jurisdiction to participate in organized sport.</p>	<p>Event planners are required to develop a COVID-19 Operational Plan that addresses risk mitigation measures across all aspects of the event.</p> <p>Tournaments in general should not be conducted in the usual way (large gatherings) but along a game-based playoff model instead to limit exposure as much as possible.</p>
20. Can my organization travel to or host teams from other Atlantic Provinces for competitions?	Note: for regions in orange/red alert level phase, organized sport cannot occur, nor can individuals who reside within a region that is in orange or red phase travel outside of the region to a yellow phase jurisdiction to participate in organized sport.	<p>The current Mandatory Order does not restrict sport teams from travelling within the 'Atlantic Bubble' to compete. However, the 'Atlantic Bubble' was not opened with the intent of facilitating interprovincial sport opportunities.</p> <p>Any activity that falls outside of the usual organization's activities (eg. Competition requiring travel) is required to be identified in a separate plan or must be integrated in the organization's COVID-19 Operational Plan and must address risk mitigation measures associated to that travel (eg. Transportation, hotel, restaurants, etc).</p> <p>Concerns remain related to additional travel; the risk of larger gatherings and the fact that other jurisdictions may have more relaxed return-to-play protocols. All organizations are advised to carefully consider and assess the additional risk that travel to and participation in interprovincial events present.</p>

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21. Where can I find the COVID19 Operational Plan guide?	COVID-19 Operational Plan Guide and Guidance Document of General Public Health Measures During COVID-19 Recovery A template is available on page 16 of the WorkSafe NB "Embracing the New Normal" document	
22. Where can I find guidelines for workplaces?	Embracing the New Normal As We Safety Return To Work and Frequently Asked Questions	
23. Where can I find posters/Fact sheets	https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/corporate/promo/covid-19/resources.html	
24. Where can I find guidance documents and Risk Assessment Examples?	In addition to the links above, the following documents may be helpful: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community-Based Measures Guidance • Risk Assessment Guideline Health Canada • PHAC Risk Mitigation Tool for Child and Youth Settings • Risk Mitigation Tool for Outdoor Recreation Spaces and Activities Operating during the COVID-19 Pandemic 	
	Own the Podium has also developed a Risk Assessment Tool specific to sport. We recommend you contact your National Sport Organization for guidance on this tool.	
25. Will COVID-19 affect my organization's insurance coverage?	Organizations should contact their insurance provider directly. Virus and biological agents/contagions are typically an exclusion in most policies. Many insurers now have a specific COVID-19 exclusion as well.	
26. Should my organization update its waivers / assumptions of risk (for minors) forms to include COVID-19?	Organizations are strongly encouraged to discuss this with their insurance providers and consider getting legal advice. In general, including COVID-19 into your waivers and forms would be a good risk management practice. For more information about Waivers and Forms under COVID-19, we encourage you to listen to this webinar . Please note that Provincial Organizations have received templates that include COVID-19 which can be shared to local organizations. These templates must be updated to reflect up to date guidance.	
27. What organizations are required to have a COVID-19 Operational Plan?	Each organization or group must have its own unique COVID-19 Operational Plan in place that outlines how they will manage the safe operation of their programs and activities. The plan must address, but is not limited to, physical distancing, cleaning and disinfecting, hand and respiratory hygiene pre-screening for symptoms. This includes Multisport Organizations, Provincial Sport Organizations, Regional Organizations and Local Organizations. COVID-19 Operational Plans must be made available at all workplaces and activities.	
28. Can a local club just adopt its' Provincial Organization's COVID-19 Operational Plan?	Provincial Organizations are encouraged to provide high level guidance. Local organizations must have their own COVID-19 Operational Plan that takes in consideration local operations.	

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29. Will Government review and approve my COVID-19 Operational Plans?	Government does not approve plans. Sport and Recreation Organizations can contact their respective Sport and Recreation Branch Consultant for additional guidance however final approval remains the responsibility of each organization.	
30. Is there a mechanism for organizations to be able to access the COVID-19 Operational Plans from each of the facilities?	The Sport and Recreation Branch does not keep a database of organizations COVID-19 Operational Plans. It is incumbent on organizations and clubs to work collaboratively with facility owners and operators to ensure that programs are delivered as safely as possible. Recreation and Sport Organizations should refer to or add the COVID-19 Operational Plan of the facility they are using to their organization's COVID-19 Operational Plan.	
31. If I rent an office, am I required to have a COVID-19 Operational Plan or is it a landlord's Responsibility?	All organizations must have their own COVID-19 Operational Plan for their workplace. When the workplace is rented from another organization, it should align with the landlord's COVID-19 Operational Plan.	
32. Can my organizations hold an in-person meeting?	Indoor meetings for business purposes are allowed provided they can maintain physical distancing and meet other requirements. Organizations are still encouraged to use conference call or online conferencing software for their meetings.	
	Some operations may be required to further adapt during the orange public health alert level; review the Fall preparedness plan for detail and also keep up to date with the Mandatory Order.	
33. If there is no opportunity for approval of my Operational Plan what will happen if there is a spot check and my plan doesn't meet the requirements?	The inspections/spot checks are focused on education and monitoring. If spot check finds weaknesses in a plan, the aim will be to provide the guidance for the organization to meet the requirements. Blatant disregard of the requirements could result in a fine, or worse, a COVID-19 outbreak. The action items that are listed in the WorkSafe NB template are comprehensive.	
34. Some of our coaches are self-employed. Are they required to have their own operational plan?	Organizations that hire coaches are required to have a COVID-19 Operational Plan. Unless the coaches offer activities independently of an organization, they are not required to have their own COVID-19 Operational Plan.	
35. Where can I find more information about Employment Standards	www.gnb.ca/labour or contact 1-888-452-2687	
36. Where can we purchase hand sanitizing or protective equipment	https://www2.snb.ca/content/dam/snb/Procurement/AtlanticCanadaPPESuppliersForPrivateIndustry.pdf	

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37. Where can I find a guide on cleaning and disinfection for COVID-19?	https://www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Departments/h-s/pdf/Cleaning_DisinfectingE.pdf	
38. Is there guidance available to determine how often a shared piece of equipment should be disinfected?	There is currently no specific guidance other than “as often as possible” to a minimum of twice per day. Sports are responsible to determine the best system to implement to limit exposure via the sharing of equipment (eg. Rotation of sanitized balls after each play, etc.)	
39. For outdoor Recreation facilities, are nearby washrooms satisfactory for hand washing or do they need to bring in hand washing equipment right at the entrance of the field/court?	There is no defined requirement on where handwashing stations must be in proximity to the activity. Organizations must be able to demonstrate that hand hygiene requirements can be met.	
40. Who is responsible to provide hand cleaning stations / hand sanitizing dispensers? Facilities or user-groups?	Facilities will be required to have hand cleaning stations which will be listed in their COVID-19 Operational Plan. Organizations must also address cleaning and sanitization in their respective COVID-19 Operational Plan and practices. Organizations are encouraged to communicate with their respective facility to confirm these details.	
41. What is screening and when is it required?	See WorkSafe NB document (page 9 and 11) Passive Screening is required by all organizations. Active Screening is required in workplaces where 2m physical distancing can't be maintained.	
42. What does my organization do if we find out that an employee, volunteer or participant has been exposed to someone infected with COVID-19?	https://www.worksafenb.ca/media/60927/frequently-asked-questions-COVID-19.pdf	
43. My program requires having volunteers with First-Aid and CPR certificates, but first aid courses aren't offered due to COVID-19 physical distancing measures. What do I do?	See WorkSafe NB FAQs for guidance: https://www.worksafenb.ca/media/60927/frequently-asked-questions-COVID-19.pdf	
44. What are the expectations of a Provincial Organization on local organizations,	For consistency purposes, NB Public Health has requested that Provincial Recreation and Sport Organizations act as leads for their respective sport however it is recognized that PSOs does not have any jurisdiction on many of these groups. We hope you will share your	

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NBIAA and/or unsanctioned groups of the same sport?	return to play documents and provide guidance, but you are not responsible for their decisions.	
<p>45. What are the current border restrictions?</p> <p>Our organization would like to hire a coach/facilitator from another Province for a clinic. Can he/she still come?</p>	<p>Interprovincial travel without the requirement to self-isolate is permitted in Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia, for residents of Atlantic Canada.</p> <p>Visitors from other Canadian provinces and territories must adhere to the local entry requirements in place in each of the four jurisdictions. Other Canadian visitors to the Maritime provinces that have self-isolated for 14 days may then travel within the Maritime region.</p> <p>For more information: Travel Information</p>	
46. Is there communication with the Education Dept to encourage them to open their recreation and sport facilities?	Organized Sports are NOT allowed.	<p>As per the Return to School: Direction for School Districts and Schools document:</p> <p>“Community use of schools is on hold until further notice.”</p> <p>“Outdoor fields may be used by community organizations subject to district direction, but users may not enter the school building.”</p> <p>A communication piece is currently being developed in collaboration between EECD and THC to provide further information on the topic of Community Use of Schools. This communication will be shared by THC (Sport and Recreation Branch) when available.</p>