

**COVID 19 SAFETY PLAN
RETURN TO SPORT (BASEBALL) GUIDELINES
for the
VANCOUVER MINOR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION**

- Updated June 14, 2021-
Summer & Fall Gameplay

PURPOSE

The Provincial Health Officer (PHO) and Vancouver Minor Baseball's (VMBA) direction is that the RTS Guidelines should cover three things:

1. Processes to open (play) safely.
2. Measures are to keep people safe to prevent further outbreaks.
3. A plan in an event that a case or an outbreak should occur.
4. Game & Practice Sanitization Protocols. Updated June 2021
5. Game & Practices Spectator Protocols Updated June 2021

Step 1: Assess the risks at your facility.

Step 2: Protocols we have to reduce the risk in **RED**.

1. Identify areas where people gather?
Baseball diamonds and dugouts at Nanaimo Park, Vancouver
2. Identify situations and processes where individuals are close to one another or member of the public.
 - a.) **At home plate between catcher and batter** - VMBA is still **strongly** recommending mask use in any close contact times
 - b.) **At any base between the fielder and the base runner** - VMBA is still **strongly** recommending mask use in any close contact times
 - c.) **Dugouts** – **Players and coaches 11U & up, can use now**. VMBA is still **strongly** recommending mask use in any close contact areas like park diamond dug outs.
 - d) **Bleachers** – Are not in used currently. When we are allowed to have spectators. Spectators will sit away from participants using lawn chairs. (50 allowed at each diamonds event).
 - e) If groups use the same diamond, start/ end times will be spaced to prevent cohort contact at the park.
 - f) **Batting cage** not in use currently. When this is in use again separate protocols will be posted.
 - g) **Park Concession** is not currently is use. When this is in use again separate protocols will be in posted.
3. Identify the equipment that may be shared by individuals.
 - a.. **Baseballs** – coaches or a volunteer will disinfect the baseballs with 72% alcohol (this will be provided to all coaches) before each session, as well as ask all individuals participating to disinfect hands before coming onto the playing field, during & after.

b.. Catcher's equipment and bats - coaches or a volunteer will disinfect all catchers gear with 72% alcohol before each session and ask that only one catcher use that equipment per practice.

4. Identify surfaces that people touch often.

There are no surfaces that people touch often on our diamond besides the dugouts, and bleachers we plan to not allow participants to use them.

First Level Protection (elimination):

Measures in RED

Limit the number of people and ensure physical distance whenever possible.

We will allow up to a maximum of 50 at each diamond. When spectators are allowed, & they will be part of that number.

Established maximum program numbers for our program that meets facility requirements.

As listed above, we are only allowing a maximum of 50 or less participants for each program of each division. When they are allowed to attend.

We have implemented measures to keep participants and others at least 3 metres apart, wherever possible.

We will be posting on fence around our facility, as well as having our volunteer coaches / managers consistently reminding our participants of the 3-metre minimum distancing. Unless in play then:

VMBA is still **strongly** recommending mask use in any close contact times.

Second Level Protection (engineering):

Request that spectators not use bleachers as they are too close to our program participants.

Third level protection (administrative): Rules and guidelines

Measures in RED

1. Identify Rules and Guidelines for how participants, coaches, volunteers and spectators conduct themselves.

a. We will be posting updates of this COVID-19 Safety plan to all participants and their families, coaches, and volunteers on the VMBA website. Also, we will update when spectators are able to return to the park.

b. Coaches will verbally tell all participants (and their families), and volunteers of all rules and guidelines, such as disinfecting of baseballs, catcher's equipment, and bats, cleaning of hands before doing entering or touching a ball (sanitizing gel or spray will be provided).

c. We will have signage at various areas of our baseball diamonds.

Fourth Level Protection:

Measures in RED

Using of masks

Masks are currently a policy for the duration of each session. Volunteers are provided & players provide their own. **Update** VMBA is still **strongly** recommending mask use in any close contact times.

Reduce the risk of surface transmission through effective cleaning and hygiene practices?

Nanaimo Park has male & female bathrooms, and it is cleaned and maintained by the Vancouver Parks Board. VMBA will be posting signage with regards to proper handwashing. As well, we will have sanitizer at every diamond being used by our participants.

We have communicated good hygiene practices to participants, coaches, volunteers, etc.

Our guidelines & protocols are posted on the website, as well as posting signage throughout Nanaimo Park.

We have implemented cleaning protocols for all common areas and surfaces.

Non applicable because will not be using the bleachers.

Workers who are cleaning have adequate training and materials.

Coaches and/or volunteers will be giving the proper cleaning materials to disinfect all equipment being used and will be advised as to how to thoroughly clean with these products.

We have removed unnecessary tools and equipment to simplify the cleaning process. We are asking all participants to bring their own bats to minimize the exposure and to simplify the cleaning process. If VMBA bats are used, they will be cleaned prior & after use.

Provide information about your cleaning plan.

Coaches and/or volunteers will be responsible for all cleaning of baseballs, bats, and catcher's equipment before the start of each game or practice.

Step 3: Develop Policies

Develop the necessary policies to manage your sport.

Illness Policy in **RED**

Illness Policy (a more "detailed" one also attached)

- a. Anyone who has had symptoms of COVID-19 in the last 10 days. Symptoms include fever, chills, new or worsening cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, and new muscle aches or headache.
- b. Anyone directed by Public Health to self-isolate.
- c. Anyone who has arrived from outside of Canada or who has had contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case must self-isolate for 14 days and monitor for symptoms.

Our policy addresses participants, coaches, volunteers, who may start to feel ill while participating. It includes the following. Spectators are included in this when we are allowed to have spectators.

- a. please advise your coach, even with mild symptoms.
- b. Sick participants will be asked to sanitize their hands immediately, provided with a mask, and isolated. The participant will be asked to leave the park immediately.
- c. If the participant is severely ill (e.g. difficulty breathing, chest pain), 911 will be called immediately.
- d. We will clean and disinfect all shared equipment.

Step 4: Develop Communication Plans Measure in RED

Ensure that everyone participating in the sport activity knows how to keep themselves safe while participating.

All participants, coaches, volunteers, and spectators will be receiving an email with this Safety plan attached. Safety plan & all subsequent plans are on the web. All coaches and/or volunteers will be verbally addressing all safety measures at all sessions. Signage will be posted throughout the park with regards to the following.

- a. Occupancy levels (maximum 50 participants & spectators). When Spectators are able to attend.
- b. Effective hygiene practices.
- c. Those who are restricted from participating (including spectators, volunteers, coaches, and players).

Coaches and volunteers will be advised on monitoring participants to ensure policies and procedures are being followed.

Step 5: Monitor and Update Plans, as Necessary. Measure in RED

If you identify a new area of concern, or if it seems like something isn't working, take steps to update your policies and procedures.

We will be checking in on a regular basis with all our coaches to ensure things are going as smoothly and as planned. We will also be checking to see if they are in need of any supplies with regards to disinfecting or sanitizing.

Step 6: Assess and Address Risks from Resuming Operations Measure in RED

We have a training plan for new coaches, volunteers.

All coaches and volunteers have been made aware of these new safety measure and responsibilities via email and verbally.

We have identified a safe process for cleaning and removing things that have been out of use.

Baseballs and shared bats & catcher's equipment will be disinfected by our Equipment Manager prior to it being released to our coaches, but coaches and/or volunteers MUST disinfect it again at the beginning of every session.

We have a training plan around changes to our programming.

We will keep to guidelines provided by the PHO, Baseball BC, BC Minor & Vista sport. As they progress, we will progress this plan by showing the updated by date.

1. We will send all material for updated safety plan to coaches on stage 2 transitioning into cohort game play & ensure they understand any changes to our plan.

2. We have gone through safe processes for cleaning and arranged to remove items that are out of use.

On our website you will find the following

1. Outbreak Plan....Updated June 2021

2. First Aid Plan ...Updated June 2021
4. Game & Practices Spectator Protocols (2) Updated June 2021