

2022 Special Olympics Pennsylvania COVID-19 Preparedness Plan

Special Olympics Pennsylvania's COVID-19 Preparedness Plan follows industry guidance developed by the [Pennsylvania Department of Health](#) and the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC).

PRECAUTIONS

Special Olympics Pennsylvania (SOPA) will advise customers/participants, volunteers, and others to **stay home** if they do not feel well or are at a higher risk of getting sick from COVID-19. SOPA will use its websites, social media platforms, event email blasts and other outlets to educate participants, customers, and clients on the steps being taken for their protection and the protection of event staff and volunteers.

SOPA will offer a Virtual "POLAR POP" option for those who unable to participate in-person and still wish to be part of the event.

All persons who will be onsite – participants, staff, and volunteers – will be required to answer COVID-19 screening questions onsite. Anyone answering that they have been exposed to a known case or experienced symptoms of COVID-19 in the previous 14 days will not be allowed into the event and will be required to convert to a virtual participant.

Highly visible signage will be posted at the event entrance and onsite, outlining established protocols, including:

- If sick/presenting any symptoms, do not enter the secure area. Symptoms of COVID-19 can include cough, shortness of breath, fever, chills, headache, muscle pain, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell. Other less common symptoms include gastrointestinal symptoms like nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea.
- Face coverings are strongly encouraged (even if vaccinated) for all staff, volunteers, and participants except when plunging into the water. Children under 2 years of age are not required to wear a mask.
- Large signs will be posted on site reading, "Our Special Olympics athletes are highly vulnerable to the risks of COVID-19. Help protect them and all attendees. Please wear a mask at registration and inside changing areas."
- Be respectful of social distancing between people/groups.

Special Olympics Pennsylvania will strongly encourage all participants, volunteers and staff – regardless of vaccination status – to wear face coverings, whether in a tent or outdoors, while within the event perimeter (except when entering the water). SOPA will provide masks at registration for those who do not bring one with them. In addition:

- ✓ Highly visible signage will be placed at entrances and within tents where congestion may occur, reminding people to maintain social distancing.
- ✓ Sanitizing stations (sanitizing wipes and/or hand sanitizer) will be available throughout the event grounds and in tents.
- ✓ We will limit shared equipment and frequently sanitize high touch areas such as doors, iPads, pens, etc. between touches.

- ✓ Single unit portable restrooms will be utilized.
- ✓ Individually packaged food and beverage items will be available on-site.
- ✓ A current participation registration list plus a list of staff and volunteers will be maintained for each event. Sign up and check-in is required for admittance to the event grounds.

CHECK-IN PROCESS

Participants will be screened onsite before they are cleared to enter the event. Participants will also be reminded of social distancing and masking requirements. Special Olympics Pennsylvania will have safety protocols posted throughout event.

Participants will have a choice to use their own mask onsite or they will be offered a disposable mask to be worn before they enter water. Disposable masks will be available on-site.

PLUNGE PROCESS

After checking in, Plungers will be sent to the changing areas, where sanitizer and sanitizing wipes will be available.

We ask that all Plungers arrive wearing the gear that they want to plunge in. They will just need to drop their gear in the appropriate changing tent and then immediately make their way to the plunge site.

For Plunges utilizing above-ground pools, pool water will be fully chlorinated in accordance with CDC guidelines. For two-day plunges, pool water will be fully drained at the conclusion of day one and replaced with fresh, chlorinated water for day two.

While efforts will be made to accommodate social distancing in changing areas, to avoid changing area backlog, signage will be placed in tents reading, "After you've changed, please leave tent promptly to avoid congestion."