



USMS COVID-19 Safety Plan Addendum (Phase 3)

Until directed otherwise, all sanctioned events must complete this COVID-19 Safety Plan Addendum and email it to their LSMC sanctions chair in addition to completing the [standard sanction application on usms.org](#). Please copy events@usmastersswimming.org on correspondence so the National Office can gather comprehensive best practices and assist as needed.

Guidance and Recommendations

Event Directors

- The event director is responsible for researching and abiding by all current applicable federal, state, local, and facility orders related to COVID-19, clearly communicating protocols in published event information, and providing email updates to attendees as needed.
- Per [CDC guidance](#) (updated July 28, 2021), at indoor facilities in [areas with substantial or high COVID-19 transmission levels](#), it is recommended that both vaccinated and unvaccinated attendees wear a mask covering the nose and mouth at all times except while swimming.
- Limit spectators and nonessential attendees.
- Limit bathroom access (swimmers arrive and leave in their suits).
- Limit hospitality (attendees should bring snacks, water, etc.). If food or drinks need to be provided, use individually wrapped or sealed containers in a grab and go setting.
- Space out seating areas and preassign to groups or individuals if possible. Encourage swimmers to avoid congregating behind the blocks before or after races, in the warmup pool, or to cheer from the side of the pool.
- Provide hand washing stations and hand sanitizer.
- Sanitize common areas and surfaces frequently.
- Publish results online only to avoid crowds at results posted on-site.
- To eliminate the need for meetings that typically are held in-person (for officials, safety personal, open water safety briefings, etc.) publish information in advance and/or organize virtual meetings via Zoom.
- Avoid or minimize post-event socials and awards ceremonies.
- For larger events, consider splitting the event into sessions to minimize the number of attendees at the venue at any given time.
- If you become aware of COVID-19 exposure (i.e., an attendee tests positive shortly after the event and could have exposed other attendees), communicate to all attendees through email or other possible means the possible exposure times and locations so attendees may determine if quarantining and/or testing are needed. [Here are positive test protocol recommendations](#) from the [Aquatics Coalition](#).
- Pool Meets:
 - Provide plenty of time between heats and events to avoid crowding behind the blocks.
 - Limit the number of swimmers allowed in each warmup lane to allow for physical distancing. Encourage swimmers to be flexible with their warmup routines and considerate of fellow swimmers.
 - Relays may be held if ample space for distancing and all other COVID-19 mitigation efforts can remain in place. Using only every other lane is a good way to provide additional space for relay swimmers.

Event Directors (continued)

- Open Water Races:

- Avoid mass starts and use wave, time trial, or rolling starts instead to avoid crowding.
- Provide a receptacle for swimmers to discard masks as they enter the water and disposable masks for swimmers to wear as soon as they exit the water.

Officials and Timers

- The referee, starter, and stroke and turn officials should space out as much as feasible corresponding to various pool configurations.
- Sanitize any equipment before use (e.g., podium, microphone, etc.)
- Timers should keep ample space from the blocks at the start of the race and only move up to the pool's edge at the end of the race to stop their watch and/or push their button. Then they should move back to their original position.
- Consider using only one timer per lane.

COVID-19 Safety Plan Details (include additional pages as needed). Describe plans for each protocol as applicable for your area and venue.

Current applicable federal, state, local, and facility orders regarding size of gatherings, other COVID-19 protocols, etc. (include links where appropriate)
CDC Guidelines https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html Occupancy is limited to 50% of capacity, but event will be limited to 100 and fewer participants, which is far below pool capacity. Spectators are discouraged and unnecessary as this is just a fitness challenge.
Venue cleaning protocols for before, during, and after the event
We will follow the county's existing cleaning protocol, which will focus on the regular maintenance/ cleaning of the locker room and bathroom area. Swimmers will not be using the bleachers, starting blocks, or other areas, and so the opportunity to come into contact with surfaces is minimized.
Face-covering requirements and enforcement for unvaccinated attendees
Masks will not be required as the event will be outdoors. This is in compliance with local and CDC guidance. If a swimmer chooses to have someone on deck to count their laps and keep track of their 500 meter splits, this person has a choice of wearing a mask (also in compliance with CDC guidelines as the event is outdoors).
Modifications to registration and check-in area and process
Online entries and paper mailed registration will be accepted. No same day deck registrations. A check-in table will be set up at the pool entrance. Swimmers will be asked to complete the USMS COVID-19 screening form that morning as they enter the pool and sign waivers/ release of liability forms. Screening and liability forms will be collected at the check in table. Lane assignments will be emailed to participants in advance of the event.
Warm-up social distancing requirements and enforcement
This is an outdoor fitness challenge, and as such there will not be a warm up.

Venue facilities that are available and off-limits to participants
Swimmers will have access to bathrooms and changing areas (indoor toilets, showers, and changing areas). Everyone will be asked to maintain social distancing in the locker room area.
Swimmer requirements for races (entering and exiting the water)
The event is outdoors at a long course pool, and as such there is adequate space and ventilation. Swimmers will be assigned their lanes in advance and will be instructed to go straight to their assigned lane at the start of the fitness event.
Other participant interaction modifications (awards, results, etc.)
No awards will be provided at this event. Light refreshments will be served outside the pool. No food is allowed on the pool deck. Swimmers can grab treats as they leave the pool facility.
Post-event notification protocol, in the event that an attendee subsequently tests positive for COVID-19
The meet director will have email addresses and phone numbers for all participants and will use this for any subsequent notification.