



USMS COVID-19 Safety Plan Addendum (Phase 3 – Updated 5.21.21)

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](https://www.usms.org/standard-sanction-application). 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 May 13, 2021), attendees that have not been vaccinated should be required to wear a mask covering the nose and mouth inside the facility at all times except while swimming. Provide disposable masks in case attendees forget to bring their own. Distributing Ziploc bags (write names with a Sharpie) can help facilitate compliance by providing a way to keep masks clean and dry while swimmers are in the water and reduce the number of masks discarded throughout the venue.
- 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 unvaccinated 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)
All protocol currently required by local government have been outlined for approval of the facility by the City of Clearwater
Venue cleaning protocols for before, during, and after the event
Sanitizers are provided. These are scheduled cleaning of common area.
Face-covering requirements and enforcement for unvaccinated attendees
As required
Modifications to registration and check-in area and process
Screening Form at check-in is required
Warm-up social distancing requirements and enforcement
Volunteer will note enforcement of required distancing, etc. Limit 5 in warm up lane
Venue facilities that are available and off-limits to participants
These are spelled out in letter going to all swimmers.
Swimmer requirements for races (entering and exiting the water)
Social distancing
Other participant interaction modifications (awards, results, etc.)
On line after meet
Post-event notification protocol, in the event that an attendee subsequently tests positive for COVID-19
All those exposed will be notified.