



NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

MEMORANDUM

To: Chief Executives
Club Presidents
General Managers
Head Coaches
Head Team Physicians
Head Athletic Trainers
Club Infection Control Officers
Club Counsel

From: NFL Management Council

Date: October 6, 2020

Subject: Updated NFL-NFLPA COVID-19 Protocols

As discussed during yesterday's league meeting, we have updated the NFL-NFLPA COVID-19 Protocols to reflect our ongoing effort with the union to safely play football for the entire season. We have attached the updated and consolidated Protocols to this memo. Changes are reflected in the attached redline. The key updates are highlighted below:

Facility Protocol

- Clubs will be required to maintain copies of surveillance camera video of their facilities and practice areas for a period of at least 30 days. NFL Security will coordinate regular review of the footage to ensure compliance with the Protocols (e.g., use of masks and PPE).
- Clubs are required to develop schedules that will minimize the time players spend in locker rooms and to consider using locker rooms in shifts to further allow for physical distancing. Clubs must also assign lockers so that members of the same position group are not concentrated in one area of the locker room.
- Clubs must ensure sufficient physical distancing between tables and ensure that Tier 1 and Tier 2 staff do not sit within 10 feet of each other while consuming food and drink (while masks are down). Clubs should limit the time spent in the cafeteria for these groups.
- Please be reminded that all players and staff must wear masks at all times while in the club facility and on the practice field, unless a mask cannot be worn by players due to interference with athletic activity. Surgical masks are preferred; gaiters and masks with valves or vents and face shields are not permitted at the facility. (Coaches may continue to wear gaiters on-field during games only.)

- Groups of more than three (3) Tiered Individuals (including players) are prohibited from gathering outside of the club facility or team travel. Tier 1 staff and players are prohibited from engaging in meetings, practices and/or training activities outside of club facilities unless approved by the NFL and NFLPA. If a club is “shut down” because of an outbreak, Tiered staff and players are not permitted to gather in any number for any reason.

Team Travel Protocol

- Clubs are strongly encouraged to reduce the number of non-player members of the Traveling Party if possible.
- Clubs should consider allowing players and Traveling Party staff to drive themselves to the airport for departure from the home city in order to limit potential close contacts on buses.
- The minimum number of buses a club must provide while traveling has increased from two (2) to five (5). No bus may be at more than 50% capacity and players and staff must be assigned seats to avoid clustering of position groups together on the bus.

Game Day Protocol

- We have clarified that all individuals in the Bench Area, except for Active players, must wear masks at all times.
- All Tiered individuals in the designated stadium areas for practice squad and other members of the club’s Tiered staff must wear masks at all times.

Screening and Testing Protocol

- Tiered individuals will not be permitted to enter the club facility until the results of the prior day’s specimen collections have been received by the club. If an intervening “Act of God” results in the prior day’s results being delayed, the Tiered staff and players from that club will only be permitted to enter the club facility upon prior approval of the NFL Chief Medical Officer.
- Entry testing for Tier 1 Individuals (both players and staff) has been modified as follows:
 - Day 1: PCR Test (may not enter)
 - Day 2: PCR Test (may not enter)
 - Day 3: PCR Test (may not enter)
 - Day 4: PCR Test (may not enter)
 - Day 5: PCR Test (may not enter)
 - Day 6: PCR Test and POC Test; may enter if Days 1-5 PCR Tests and Day 6 POC Test are negative.

Any Tier 1 Individual, including players (other than medical providers), who misses a test must repeat this Entry testing prior to re-entering a club facility.

- Entry testing for Tier 2, 2M, and 3 Individuals entering the club facility for the first time has been modified as follows:
 - Day 1: PCR Test (may not enter)
 - Day 2: PCR Test (may not enter)
 - Day 3: PCR Test and POC Test; may enter if Days 1-2 PCR Tests and Day 3 POC Test are negative.

Tier 2 Individuals who are members of labor unions and are not permitted by their labor agreements to undergo the Entry Testing required in this subparagraph must, at a minimum, undergo a PCR test the day prior to entry and a POC test the morning of entry, and both results must be negative before that individual may enter the Club facility.

Any Tier 2 Individual (other than medical providers and members of labor unions) who has broken the regular testing cadence (i.e., missed a day of testing) must repeat the Entry testing above prior to re-entering a Club facility.

- We have clarified that, for purposes of the Protocols, the bye week will include the period beginning the day after the club's game entering into the bye week through the club's next game day.
- Free Agent Players will be required to undergo the following testing prior to entering the club facility to either try out or join the club for in-person activities:
 - Day 1: PCR Test (may not enter)
 - Day 2: PCR Test (may not enter)
 - Day 3: PCR Test (may not enter)
 - Day 4: PCR Test (may not enter)
 - Day 5: PCR Test (may not enter)
 - Day 6: PCR Test and POC Test; may enter if Days 1-5 PCR Tests and Day 6 POC Test are negative.

Such players may not have any in-person contact with any Tier 1 or Tier 2 Individuals during this on-boarding period, except that such players may be permitted to undergo a physical exam at the club physician's office during this period.

- Clubs will be limited to bringing in a maximum of five (5) players for tryouts per week, unless then club places more than three (3) players on Reserve in a seven (7) day period, in which case the club may bring two (2) times the number of players in for tryouts as it placed on Reserve during the previous seven (7) day period.

- Players acquired from other clubs (e.g. via waivers, trade or from another club's practice squad) must undergo the following testing prior to entering the club facility and participating with his club, all after he arrives in the new club city:
 - Day 1: PCR Test (may not enter)
 - Day 2: PCR Test (may not enter)
 - Day 3: PCR Test (may not enter)
 - Day 4: PCR Test (may not enter)
 - Day 5: PCR Test (may not enter)
 - Day 6: PCR Test and POC Test; may enter if Days 1-5 PCR Tests and Day 6 POC Test are negative.

Any player who is terminated and re-signed by the same club and does not miss a test and does not leave the terminating club's city will not be required to undergo any additional testing before rejoining the club.

Positive Test Reporting

- Please also be reminded that each Club's ICO is required, pursuant to the Protocols, to provide the following information to Dr. Sills upon receiving the positive test result so we may report it to the NFLPA:
 1. Date of the positive test
 2. Category of the known positive:
 - a. Owner/Employee:
 - i. Player
 - ii. Staff (Tier 1, 2 or 3)
 - iii. Non-Essential Personnel
 - b. Vendor
 - c. Visitor
 - i. Business-side
 - ii. Restricted Area Access (if so, why?)
 3. Method of Detection
 - a. Home or Facility Screen
 - b. Test Result (and where)
 - c. Other
 4. Name and contact of local/state health department with whom the club is coordinating contact tracing
 5. Facility Access
 - a. Last time at facility
 - b. Length of time at facility
 - c. Categories of persons in contact with at the facility
 - d. Nature and approximate duration of contact
 6. Current quarantine location/Expected return date

Protocol Enforcement

- Failure to enforce strict compliance with these requirements will subject the club to discipline by the league.

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We will continue to monitor the efficacy of the Protocols and clubs' compliance with them as the season progresses. We thank you for your dedication to implementing and strictly adhering to these Protocols. Please contact Dawn Aponte, Meghan Carroll, Larry Ferazani, or Dr. Allen Sills if you have any questions.