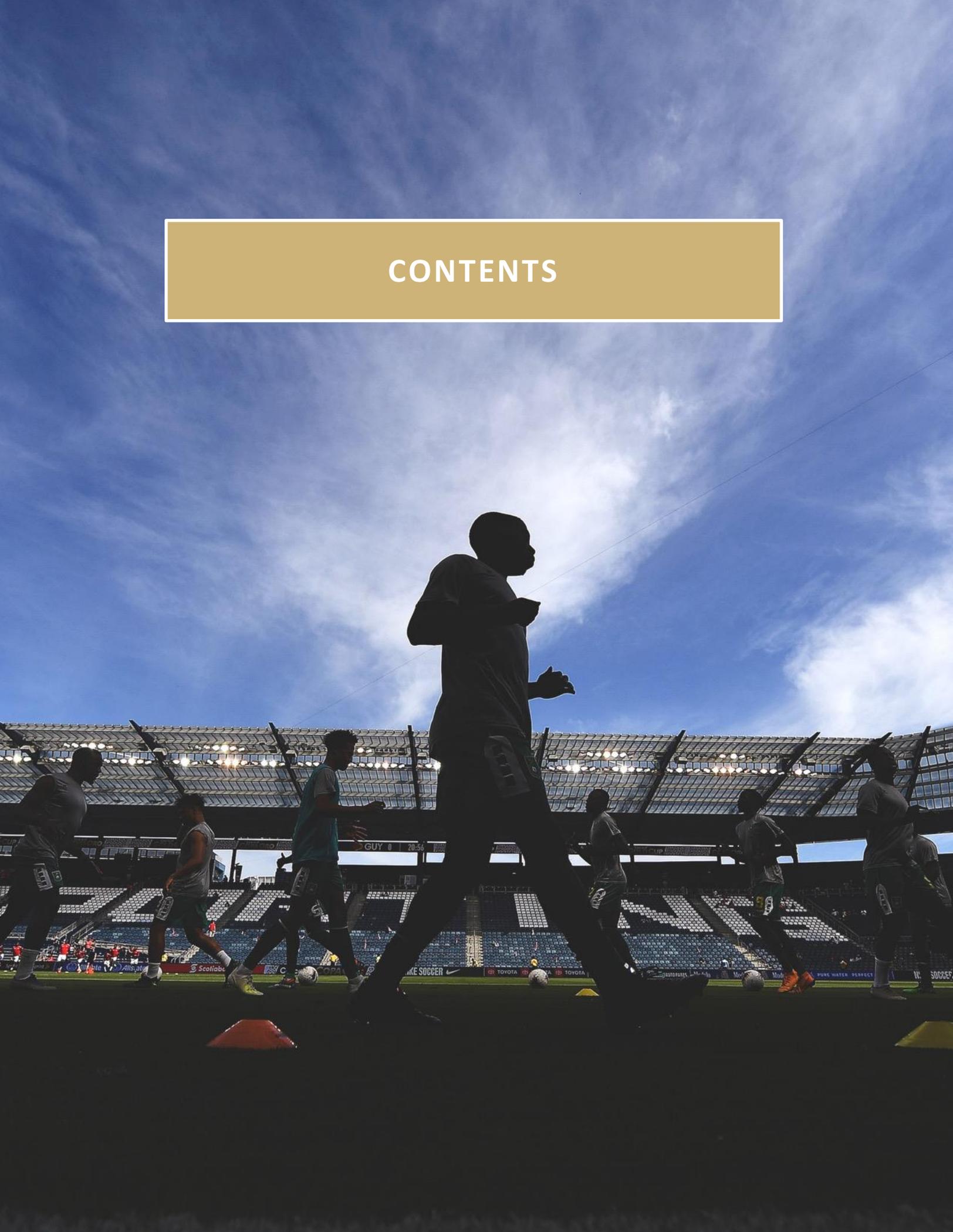




## Concacaf

COVID-19 Return to Play Guidelines

# CONTENTS



## CONTENTS

Disclaimer .....	5
1. Concacaf’s Response to COVID-19.....	6
Return to Football: Concacaf Protocol Guidelines .....	8
2. Roles and Responsibilities.....	8
3. COVID 19 Testing Responsibilities and Recommendations .....	8
4. General.....	11
5. Pre-Event .....	13
6. Travel .....	14
7. Daily Living/Routines.....	15
8. Training.....	16
9. Referees and Match Officials .....	16
Match Operations .....	19
10. Official Meetings.....	19
11. Match Day.....	19
12. Pre-Match Protocol .....	20
13. Post-Match Activities.....	21
14. Media .....	21
15. Broadcast .....	25
Venue .....	29
16. Accommodations .....	29
17. Meals.....	29
18. Facilities .....	29
19. Stadium.....	30

## Concacaf | Return to Play Guidelines

20.	Stadium Zones .....	33
	Safety Precautions .....	35
21.	Risk Assessment of Football Events.....	35
22.	Protocol for positive COVID-19 results during Competition.....	36
23.	Hospital Visits Unrelated to COVID-19 .....	37
24.	Player health, fitness and injury considerations (FIFA).....	37
	Other Matters.....	40
25.	Safety & Security.....	40
26.	Disciplinary Measures.....	40
27.	Conclusion.....	40



DISCLAIMER

## Disclaimer

This Concacaf COVID-19 Guidelines document should not be used as a substitute for medical or legal advice. Concacaf recommends using these resources in coordination with applicable government and related venue policies and guidelines. These materials remain subject to further revision as available information continues to emerge and evolve from experts and relevant health authorities. Matters not provided for in these Guidelines, cases of force majeure, or anything related to the prevention of COVID-19 will be decided by Concacaf from time to time. Additional information not in these materials will be communicated via Circular and/or included in the applicable Competition Regulations. This document should be read in conjunction with organizational medical standards and international and national guidance on public health and mass gatherings.

### 1. Concacaf's Response to COVID-19

- 1.1. The purpose of this document is to outline prevention considerations for Football Competitions in the Concacaf Region in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. For any Member Association, league, club or other football organization which does not have COVID-19 related protocols or guidelines in place, or which is currently developing them, this document can provide support and examples of good practice. It is not intended as a substitute for existing protocols which have already been developed in conjunction with public health experts, and it should be read in conjunction with expert guidance provided by appropriate bodies.
- 1.2. In terms of Concacaf's own centralized competitions, several were suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This document will outline in detail how the Confederation will plan to resume competitions, with particular regard to the stringent medical provisions and testing procedures which will be implemented to create a safer environment for players and officials.
- 1.3. Concacaf is fully committed in assisting its Member Associations and stakeholders in the region with regards to hosting and/or participating in any event/competition. Please feel free to contact Concacaf regarding any medical matters at [generalsecretariat.football@concacaf.org](mailto:generalsecretariat.football@concacaf.org).



RETURN TO FOOTBALL

## Return to Football: Concacaf Protocol Guidelines

### 2. Roles and Responsibilities

#### 2.1. Concacaf:

2.1.1. Provide COVID-19 Guidelines and recommendations for Member Associations to follow.

2.1.2. Organizes and executes Concacaf competitions/events with the support of the LOC.

#### 2.2. Host Member Association/Club:

2.2.1. Provide a COVID-19 Contingency Plan with all event operational functions, medical counterparts and local public health authorities.

2.2.2. Ensure that these guidelines and protocols are being followed.

2.2.3. Educate all working staff and vendors on the proper COVID-19 procedures.

2.2.4. Monitor that all working staff and vendors are following the proper COVID-19 procedures.

2.2.5. Coordinate COVID-19 testing for LOC staff and service providers.

2.2.6. Appoint a Medical Liaison Officer.

2.2.7. Ensure that all venues are ready to receive participants.

#### 2.3. Teams

2.3.1. Ensure that official delegation is following proper COVID-19 procedures.

2.3.2. Coordinate COVID-19 testing for official delegation prior to international travel as required by the Host Country.

2.3.3. Comply with Host Country travel guidelines and health protocols.

### 3. COVID 19 Testing Responsibilities and Recommendations

**3.1. Teams:**

3.1.1. The full delegation (Players and Team Officials) should be tested for COVID-19 and receive a negative test result dated a maximum of 5 days prior to their travel date. Once tested, minimal public movements should be encouraged.

3.1.1.1. Review local travel requirements and ensure documentation requested by Local Authorities from the visiting country is available for travel.

3.1.2. Any person who tested positive (in the test dated a maximum of 5 days prior to travel) or is showing symptoms of COVID-19 must be removed from the traveling delegation, self-isolate and contact Local Authorities. Confirmatory and or additional testing should be considered.

3.1.3. All Participants must travel with their proof of a negative COVID-19 result (dated a maximum of 5 days prior to travel) and any other documents requested by Local Authorities from the visiting country.

3.1.4. Upon arrival to the country hosting the competition, the traveling delegation should be tested for COVID-19 within the first 12 hours and provide a negative test result to begin official competition activities.

3.1.5. Delegation must follow travel requirements set in this document.

**3.2. Match Officials and Referees:**

3.2.1. Match Officials and Referees should be tested for COVID-19 and receive a negative test dated a maximum of 5 days prior to their travel date in order to participate in the competition.

3.2.2. Any person who tested positive should be replaced from the traveling delegation, self-isolate and contact Local Authorities.

3.2.3. Proof of a negative COVID-19 result (dated a maximum of 5 days prior to travel) and any other documentation requested by Local Authorities from the visiting country is needed for travel.

3.2.4. Upon arrival to the country hosting the competition, Match Officials and Referees should be tested for COVID-19 within the first 12 hours

and provide a negative result.

3.2.5. Delegation must follow travel requirements set in this document.

3.3. Local Organizing Committee (LOC):

3.3.1. If there is an appointed LOC for a specific competition, the LOC is responsible for the testing of all their personnel (LOC Staff, Stadium Staff, volunteers, security, vendors, providers, etc.) The LOC will be required to provide to Concacaf a signed affidavit and release of liability documentation confirming that tests have been conducted on all LOC personnel (including names and roles) and that any individual with a positive test result will not hold a working function during the competition.

3.3.2. If no LOC is appointed, then the visiting team will be responsible for ensuring that their selected hotel, transportation services and other facilities will follow strict cleaning and disinfecting procedures as enforced by local authorities.

3.4. Additional Information:

3.4.1. The LOC should have proof of a negative COVID-19 test result for all their personnel 72 hours prior to the first delegation's arrival before the start of the event, and as many times as required by Local Authorities during the event or as requested by the Concacaf.

3.4.2. Anyone involved in the match who develops any COVID-19 symptoms must immediately self-isolate and contact Concacaf and local health authorities. Daily screening of all individuals for symptoms should be done by each delegation and LOC for event Staff.

3.4.3. Security checkpoints that have been aligned with minimum requirements established by Local Authorities should be in place before arrival of all personnel working at the event and having any contact with the teams and Match Officials.

3.4.3.1. Additional requests might be required by the event organizer.

3.4.4. Concacaf recommends the LOC has the following supplies within all competitions areas to facilitate a safe return to Football:

- 3.4.4.1. Hand sanitizers, face coverings/shields for all Staff, soap, thermometers, disposable gloves, disinfectant sprays/wipes, and any other sanitary items as recommended by Local Authorities.

#### 4. General

Players, Team Staff, Stadium Staff, LOC, Staff and Match Officials must adhere to the following:

- 4.1. Each participating team is responsible for providing face covering for their full delegation and ensuring compliance of masks being worn as directed.
- 4.2. Without any additional cost to Concacaf, Concacaf reserves the right to ask for additional testing for Players and Staff to be eligible to participate in the competition.
- 4.3. Concacaf shall manage all approvals of accreditations for the competition.
- 4.4. Educate all team personnel on how to properly wear and dispose of PPE equipment, how to recognize COVID-19 symptoms and best practices.
- 4.5. Face coverings (double cloth or surgical type mask) must be worn at all times. Face shield is also recommended.
- 4.6. Players are not required to wear face coverings during the following:
  - 4.6.1. Exercise in designated exercise zones/facilities (subject to change based Local Authorities)
  - 4.6.2. Actively eating/drinking
  - 4.6.3. On the field of play during training or a match
  - 4.6.4. Substitute warmups during a match
  - 4.6.5. Masks must be re-applied as soon as possible following such activity.
- 4.7. Practice social distancing 6ft. (at least 2m) at all times:
  - 4.7.1. The one exception to social distancing restrictions would be for medical reasons (i.e. treatment provided by physical

## Concacaf | Return to Play Guidelines

therapist/doctor)

- 4.7.2. During the course of the game and team warmups for Players, team coaches and Match Officials.
- 4.8. All Participants are discouraged from socializing with one another in close contact while at/or outside the hotel.
- 4.9. Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 30 seconds.
- 4.10. If soap and water is not readily available, use alcohol-based hand sanitizer. The LOC must provide hand sanitizing stations throughout the stadium, training site, hotel, and bus.
- 4.11. LOC must provide the following quantities of hand sanitizer and soap to each team as supplemental resources that each team should additionally secure:
  - Disinfectant for Locker Room: 1 per match/training session (1 gallon)
  - Hand Soap for Locker Room: 1 per match/training session (1 gallon)
  - Hand Sanitizers: 2 per person in delegation for every 5 days (10 oz)
  - Disinfectant wipes: 1 pack (minimum 35 wipes) per 2 people in delegation
- 4.12. Avoid sharing, taking, and giving clothing, soap, towels, electronic devices (cellphones, laptops, headphones, tablets, etc.) or other personal items (pens, jerseys, etc.).
- 4.13. Stay up to date on vaccinations, including the flu vaccine.
- 4.14. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue, elbow or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing. If coughing persists, isolate and seek medical advice.
- 4.15. Avoid touching of face (mouth, nose, eyes).
- 4.16. Avoid touching of handles/doorknobs (leave doors open when possible).
- 4.17. Avoid contact with people exhibiting illness symptoms, including avoiding close contact with those suffering from acute respiratory infections.
- 4.18. Avoid handshakes, high fives and fist bumps, including individuals from your delegation.

- 4.19. Avoid contact with anyone if you are feeling ill. Seek medical attention immediately and notify Concacaf. Concacaf requests that if someone is experiencing an illness for them to notify via their phone and remain in their room if possible, to avoid exposing anyone in their delegation. The team medical Staff can then determine to assess the person with PPE in their room or other independent non delegation room.
- 4.20. All Players must have their own water bottle which should be labeled and washed after each practice or game. Water bottles should not be shared. Individual disposable bottles are also allowed. At moments of hydration maintain social distancing.
- 4.21. Concacaf and the LOC strongly discourage Players, Team Staff, and Match Officials from leaving the hotel for non-emergencies. Assign one person from your delegation to lead point on all essential errands (only for essential purposes).

## 5. Pre-Event

- 5.1. Anyone participating in the event (Players, Staff, Match Official, Concacaf Staff, etc.) must proactively and regularly (daily) check their health status (check their temperature and monitor for any symptoms). This should be done each morning prior to any movements for the day.
- 5.2. Participants must familiarize themselves with host country Local Authorities' recommendations for best practices and precautions prior to departing for the event.
- 5.3. Concacaf recommends that all Participants self-quarantine for 10 days prior to their departure to the competition. All Participants should make their best effort to avoid situations in which the risk of contracting the virus is elevated (i.e. hosting visitors, crowded places, in home installations, etc.)
- 5.4. The Team doctor must start conducting screenings for symptoms at least 14 days prior to their departure.
- 5.5. Players and Staff must have direct access and contact with the team doctor.
- 5.6. Practice social distancing, wash hands frequently and wear face coverings in order to prevent contracting of COVID-19.

- 5.7. All training pre-camp sessions must be held in a tightly controlled venue to lower the risk of contracting the virus.
- 5.8. The LOC should ensure access to medical care and have an established Emergency Action Plan (EAP) to address COVID-19 as well as Non-COVID-19 health related matters.
- 5.9. All teams must follow their Local Authorities' guidelines to safely resume training prior to travel.

### 6. Travel

- 6.1. Flights – Concacaf recommends the following safety precautions when traveling:
  - 6.1.1. All Participants must contact departure and arrival airports to familiarize themselves with any additional protocols, as well as to make special arrangements with the airports in order for the delegation to minimize contact with the general public.
  - 6.1.2. Wear face coverings at all times.
  - 6.1.3. Pack enough hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol and keep within reach (carry-on luggage).
  - 6.1.4. Bring any medication needed for the entirety of the trip.
  - 6.1.5. Clean and disinfect seats, seatbelt, tray, and armrests (all surfaces one comes in contact with).
  - 6.1.6. Limit the passing of any personal belongings to others.
  - 6.1.7. Maintain physical distancing when possible.
  - 6.1.8. Follow all airline guidelines provided.
- 6.2. Ground Transportation – Concacaf recommends the following safety precautions when traveling:
  - 6.2.1. If traveling to venue via ground transportation, the traveling delegation is responsible for ensuring their buses/vans are cleaned and disinfected.

## Concacaf | Return to Play Guidelines

- 6.2.2. Once in venue, LOC will ensure all buses are cleaned and disinfected prior to and after each Team Official movement.
- 6.2.3. Teams/LOC will ensure that buses have hand-sanitizer readily available for all passengers.
- 6.2.4. Maintain physical as well as social distance between individuals.
- 6.2.5. Passengers and ground transportation staff must keep face covering on at all times.
- 6.2.6. Follow all transportation guidelines as provided by drivers.

### 7. Daily Living/Routines

- 7.1. Teams are discouraged from leaving hotel for any non-emergency/non-essential activities during the competition.
- 7.2. Any essential errands (groceries, pharmacy, etc.) must be done by a designated delegation member. All safety precautions must be taken into account. The designated delegation member should be selected prior to arrival to venue and should be noted on the final list.
- 7.3. All Players and Staff must follow the medical protocols as set forth by Local Authorities, LOC, and Concacaf.
- 7.4. If a Player or Staff member begins feeling ill, develops any symptoms of COVID-19 or has been in close contact with an individual who is sick, report to team doctor or on-site physician immediately.
- 7.5. Team members and Staff may only participate in activities with the individuals of their delegation.
- 7.6. No physical contact with Players or Staff of other delegations outside of official matches taking place.
- 7.7. No physical contact with any individual not on the delegation list (Ex: visitors).
- 7.8. If a Player or Staff member is having a personal item or other package sent to them, a contactless delivery must occur.
- 7.9. The LOC is responsible for ensuring that the designated hotel(s),

transportation services and other facilities will follow strict cleaning and disinfecting procedures as enforced by Local Authorities.

- 7.10. Delegation members may be subject to ad hoc testing at the discretion of Concacaf.

### 8. Training

- 8.1. Masks must always be worn upon arrival to training facility and while not actively training in designated training zones.
- 8.2. Players and Staff are to be dressed prior to arrival to training facility.
- 8.3. Players and Staff are to have their own hydration bottle. No sharing of bottles. Disposable bottles are permitted. In moments of hydration increasing social distancing is encouraged.
- 8.4. Players and Staff must wipe/sanitize all equipment after use.
- 8.5. No locker rooms will be provided for trainings. Bathrooms will still be accessible.

### 9. Referees and Match Officials

- 9.1. Concacaf reserves the right to substitute any Referee who test positive or shows symptoms of COVID-19. Concacaf will make its best effort for this substitute official to have a neutral nationality but reserves the right to appoint Referees from the same nationality of one of the involved teams in the match.
- 9.2. Referees and Match Officials must familiarize themselves with Local Authorities' recommendations for best practices and precautions prior to traveling to the competition.
- 9.3. Any Referee who considers themselves as a high-risk individual should report this to Concacaf prior to being assigned.
- 9.4. Concacaf recommends that all Referees and Match Officials self-quarantine for 10 days prior to their departure to the competition. All individuals must avoid situations in which the risk of contracting the virus is elevated (i.e. hosting visitors, crowded places, in home installations, etc.).
- 9.5. A local doctor provided by the LOC should check Referees, Match Officials

and Concacaf Staff for symptoms daily.

- 9.6. Referees and Match Officials must have direct access and contact with a local doctor, if they need medical attention.
- 9.7. Unless traveling to and from the stadium, all Referees and Match Officials must remain in the confines of the hotel. Should Referees or Match Officials have a need to leave the hotel, they must obtain the prior approval of the appropriate Concacaf Referee Department representative or, if not available, a Concacaf Staff Member. The Concacaf representative will assist the requesting individual in determining the safest method for accommodating the need.
- 9.8. Referees should not share water bottles. Individual water bottles, towels, and disposable bottles are permitted.
- 9.9. During the match and during any visit to a locker room, the fourth official must wear a mask.
- 9.10. The area provided to the Assessor and other Match Officials to observe the game must be socially distanced, near midfield with unobstructed views of the full field, and limited to only these individuals as well as Concacaf Staff.
- 9.11. All Referees, Match Officials, LOC Staff and Concacaf Staff may be subject to ad hoc testing at the discretion of Concacaf.

# MATCH OPERATIONS



## Match Operations

### 10. Official Meetings

10.1. Concacaf will be conducting all tournament meetings (Team Arrival Meeting, Match Coordination Meeting, LOC Meeting, etc.) over Microsoft Teams. The Concacaf Venue Coordinator/Match Coordinator will provide further details. When possible, virtual team meetings can be considered.

10.1.1. If in the event a virtual meeting cannot be conducted or that an in-person meeting must take place, the Concacaf Venue Coordinator will provide further information regarding the setup of the meeting.

### 10.2. Team Arrival Meeting

10.2.1. Passport and Uniform check will be conducted via Microsoft Teams with link provided by Concacaf Venue/Match Coordinator.

### 10.3. Match Coordination Meeting

10.3.1. All agency meeting will be conducted via Microsoft Teams with link provided by Concacaf Venue/Match Coordinator.

## 11. Match Day

11.1. Players and Staff must arrive wearing face coverings. All Personnel must wear PPE except Players and Referees when on the field (exception of Fourth Official and Match Coordinator who wears mask during the match).

11.2. The LOC, in coordination with Concacaf, will implement temperature checks upon arrival to venue for all individuals entering the facilities on match day.

11.2.1. If an individual has a temperature of 100.4°F/38°C or higher, they will be rechecked. If that individual still has a fever, the individual will not be allowed inside the venue.

11.3. Coaches and substitute Players on the bench are obligated to wear face coverings during the match.

11.4. Players should remove their masks for warm-ups during the match.

11.5. Individual water bottles and towels must be provided to all Players and

Staff.

- 11.6. Concacaf recommends Players, Staff and Match Officials refrain from spitting or clearing their noses on the field of play.
- 11.7. Head Coach may remove mask during the match when standing away from the bench, ideally 6ft. (2M), and providing instructions to Players on the field of play.
- 11.8. Celebrations during goals, although rightfully celebrated, are asked to be limited to be without high-fives or handshakes.
- 11.9. Follow Concacaf Safety Protocols as set forth in Match Coordination Meeting.

## 12. Pre-Match Protocol

- 12.1. The arrival times of teams and officials will be staggered to limit physical contact.
- 12.2. In order to control and ensure physical and social distancing rules set forth by Local Authorities and Concacaf, all individuals are to walk directly to the locker room upon arrival to venue.
- 12.3. The Match Coordinator will oversee and ensure arrivals and departures to and from locker rooms throughout the match are conducted in a way to minimize the number of individuals in the passageways at any one time.
- 12.4. Uniform check prior to the match will be conducted by the fourth official.
- 12.5. Substitutes and Staff must proceed directly to the bench with face covering.
- 12.6. Within the tunnel, Players are asked to keep their distance from one another as well as from the opposing team. Team A will walk to the field first, followed by team B until team A (Players and Staff) are in the field of play. Teams will be asked to follow the same protocol for the start of the second half.
- 12.7. Only essential personnel and duly accredited members of the delegation will have access to the Players tunnel prior to the match.
- 12.8. Concacaf's pre match protocol for competitions will remain the same with

the exception of the handshakes, which will no longer take place. No national team flags will be displayed in front of the team until further notice.

- 12.9. Players and teams alike are asked not to exchange pennants or jerseys prior to or after the match.
- 12.10. No more than sixteen (16) volunteers should be utilized during the matches (eight ball persons and eight EMS/stretchers crew).
- 12.11. Ambulance, EMS, and stretchers crews should be on site 30 minutes prior to team arrivals and follow local health regulations. Crew should wear PPE as directed per medical protocols.
- 12.12. Volunteers will be over the age of 18.

### 13. Post-Match Activities

- 13.1. Teams are advised to leave the field as soon as possible.
- 13.2. Gathering at the center of the pitch for a post-match handshake with officials and opposing team is discouraged.
- 13.3. It is recommended to minimize the time spent at the stadium, therefore cool downs are discouraged.
- 13.4. It is recommended that all match participants should shower and do their ice baths at their assigned hotel.
- 13.5. Teams should leave the stadium as soon as possible after the conclusion of the match and all media requirements have been fulfilled.
- 13.6. As with arrivals, teams' departures will be staggered to limit any physical contact.

### 14. Media

#### 14.1. General:

- 14.1.1. All media members covering matches must comply with the rules established by Concacaf, including but not limited to security protocols, access restrictions and the use of personal protective equipment at all times. Media access/positions have been predetermined, but are subject to change, if required.

14.2. Access Control:

14.2.1. Concacaf will continue to handle all media accreditations for Concacaf Competitions, providing an equal amount of attention to all media. An extremely limited number of media members will be allowed to attend matches.

The success of individual accreditation applications will depend on factors such as the space available because of capacity limitations, as well as the applicant's ability to demonstrate a history of professional coverage of sport and football in general, levels of applications for same venues and a past history of compliance with Member Association, Concacaf, and FIFA Media Guidelines.

Previously approved tournament and/or match applications, as well as previously distributed media credentials will not be valid.

Acceptance of a media accreditation for a Concacaf Competition expressly implies agreement to work by all Concacaf Guidelines, as well as all health and safety regulations which may be distributed separately.

14.2.2. Media must always wear their media credential/bib visibly and may be required to wear personal protective equipment once inside the stadium.

14.2.3. Media must always use the designated entry points to access a stadium. Media may be subject to temperature check and may be required to complete a self-certification form prior to entering a stadium.

14.3. Media Working Areas:

Prior to each use the LOC/stadium Staff will ensure to clean and disinfect all surfaces in the media areas.

14.3.1. Media Seats:

14.3.1.1. A special area of seats will be available for working media to watch the matches. Media will be required to practice social distancing 6ft. (at least 2m) and wear face coverings at all times.

14.3.2. Press Conference Room:

14.3.2.1. The Press Conference Room will not be open to media. All media, including those onsite, will be required to attend the press conference virtually.

14.3.3. Photographers and Rights Holders Field of Play Area:

14.3.3.1. Accredited photographers and TV Rights Holders may have access to the field of play area assigned to them. No media and non-rights holders will be allowed on the field of play before, during, or after any match.

14.3.4. Mixed Zone Area:

14.3.4.1. A mixed zone area will not be available.

14.3.5. Photo Working Room:

14.3.5.1. A photo working room will not be available. Photographers will be required to work from their pre-assigned on field or tribune positions at all times.

14.4. Match Day-1 Media Activities:

14.4.1. Official Training Sessions: Official training sessions will be open to a limited number of media members.

14.4.2. Press Conferences: The Head Coaches and at least one Player from each team will be required to participate in a virtual Press Conference. These will take place before or after every official training session.

14.5. Match Day Media Activities

14.5.1. General:

14.5.1.1. Interviews are not permitted during the match on the field of play itself or in its immediate vicinity. However, upon arrival and post-match interviews will take place under the following circumstances and in locations pre-determined by Concacaf.

14.5.2. Dressing room filming:

14.5.2.1. Concacaf shall enter the locker rooms with video and still cameras to collect “mood-setting” shots. This shall occur after the kit managers have completed the locker room setup.

14.5.2.2. Dressing room filming will not be permitted for participating teams and Rights Holders.

14.5.3. Arrival Flash interview:

14.5.3.1. Arrival flash interviews will take place immediately upon the arrival of the teams to the stadium, at a location to be determined by Concacaf, and prior to the teams entering their dressing rooms. The Head Coach of each team must participate.

14.5.3.2. The Head Coaches, reporter/media officer and cameraman must wear a face covering and a microphone extension must be used to maintain a safe distance.

14.5.4. Half time interviews:

14.5.4.1. Half-time interviews will not take place.

14.5.5. Post-match multilateral-flash interviews:

14.5.5.1. Multilateral-flash interviews are obligatory and will take place after the match in a designated area located next to or on the field of play, or between the field of play and the dressing rooms. Each team must make available a key Player (i.e. a Player who had a decisive influence on the result) for a minimum of one multilateral-flash interview with the host broadcaster.

14.5.5.2. The selected Player(s), reporter/media officer and cameraman must wear a face covering and a microphone extension must be used to maintain a safe distance.

14.5.6. Post-match unilateral-flash interviews:

## Concacaf | Return to Play Guidelines

14.5.6.1. Before entering the locker rooms, Players and Head Coach select shall be required to participate in multiple interviews with Rights Holders (RH) designated by Concacaf.

14.5.6.2. The selected Player(s), reporter/media officer and cameraman must wear face covering and a microphone extension must be used to maintain social distance.

14.5.7. Post-match press conferences:

14.5.7.1. Post-match press conferences must start no later than 5 minutes after the final whistle. The participation of each team head coaches, and two Players is mandatory.

In principle, the visiting team will go first, unless agreed in advance with Concacaf. The host team is responsible for providing the necessary technical infrastructure and services in accordance with these regulations.

To maintain a safe distance, each coach/Player press conference will take place individually and everyone must wear a face covering.

14.5.8. Post-match mixed zone:

14.5.8.1. A post-match mixed zone will not take place.

14.5.9. Other match day media activities:

14.5.9.1. Each team Players must fulfil all interview requests from Concacaf and its rights holders before conducting interviews with any team official platforms.

14.6. Media personnel must follow all directions of Concacaf Staff while at competition facilities or hotels.

## 15. Broadcast

15.1. The following preventive measures are designed to protect the health of the Host Broadcaster Staff in the stadium:

15.1.1. The LOC must designate a hygiene officer that will work with the Concacaf Venue Producer to ensure that the following guidelines

## Concacaf | Return to Play Guidelines

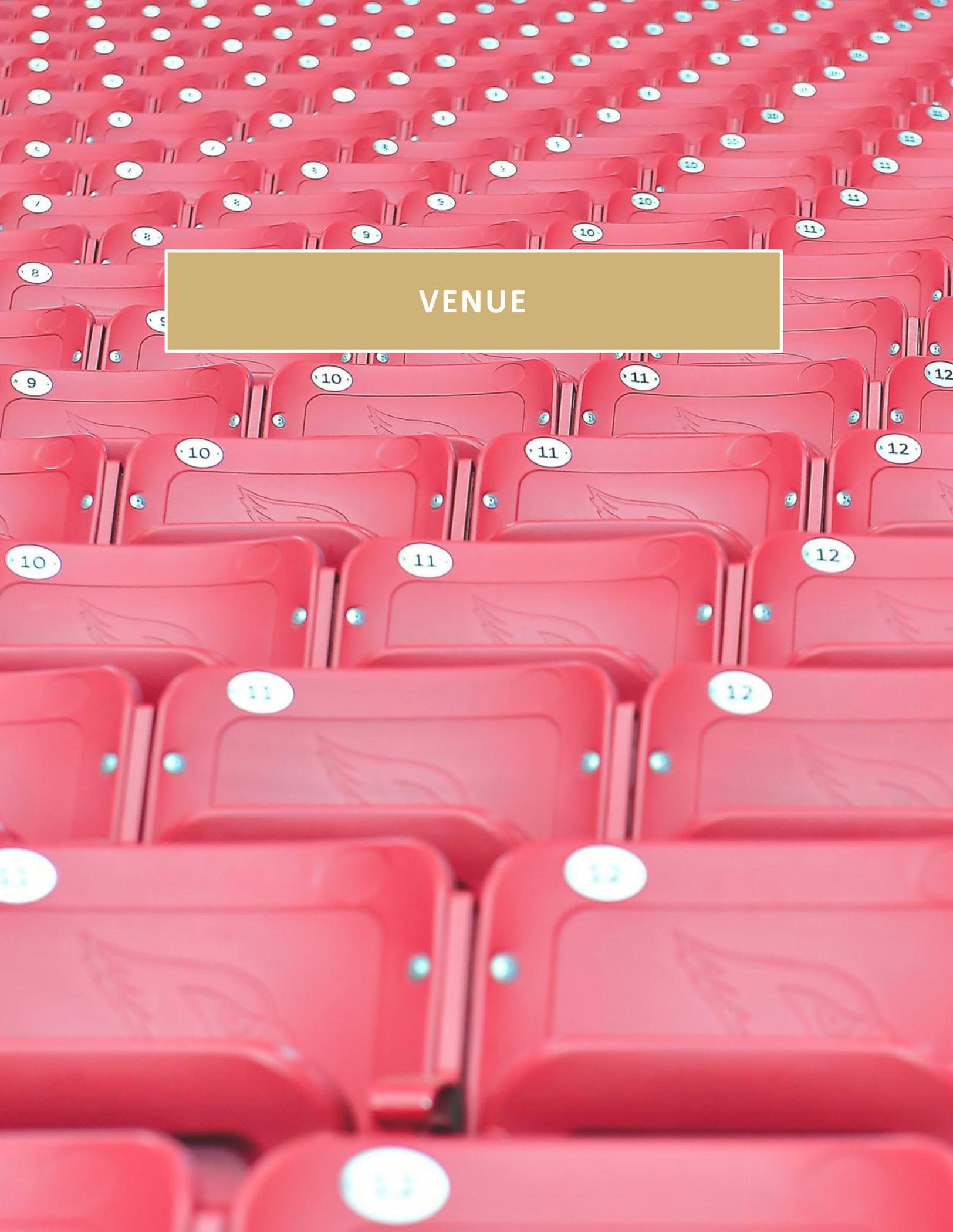
are being comply.

- 15.1.2. A proper disinfection station must be provided by the LOC at the entry of the broadcast compound. This station must include 2 liters of hand sanitizer gel, 2 bottles of disinfectant spray (Lysol or similar), 2 packages of disinfectant wipes per match day.
  - 15.1.3. A sink must be near the TV trucks. If not available, mobile sinks must be installed by the LOC, with soap and disposable towels.
  - 15.1.4. The LOC must be responsible to conduct a temperature check of all the crew entering the stadium.
  - 15.1.5. Host Broadcaster crew must be responsible of bringing the proper face mask and other safety equipment (ex: face shields, etc.).
  - 15.1.6. Host Broadcaster must be responsible of conducting a proper sanitation process on the technical equipment and inside the TV truck, as well as providing the crew with sanitation equipment.
  - 15.1.7. LOC must provide sanitation gel in the camera positions.
  - 15.1.8. No social gathering will be permitted in the broadcast compound and in tight spaces inside the stadium.
  - 15.1.9. Social distancing between the crew will be of at least 6 ft (2m)
  - 15.1.10. Inside the production truck will only be essential workers with their proper face mask, and their time inside must be limited to test and game time.
  - 15.1.11. Truck doors must be open at all time (if possible).
  - 15.1.12. Before the Staff start to work, all workstations must be sanitized.
  - 15.1.13. All Host Broadcast Staff must wear a face mask at all time inside the stadium.
- 15.2. The following preventive measures are designed to protect the health of the Right Holder (RH) Staff in the stadium:
- 15.2.1. The LOC must designate a hygiene officer that will work with the Concacaf Media Officer (CMO) to ensure that the following

## Concacaf | Return to Play Guidelines

guidelines are being comply.

- 15.2.2. A proper disinfection station must be provided by the LOC at the entry of the broadcast compound. This station must include 2 liters of hand sanitizer gel, 2 bottles of disinfectant spray (Lysol or similar), 2 packages of disinfectant wipes.
  - 15.2.3. Right Holders access will be limited to 2 people for TV RH and 1 person for Radio and Internet RH.
  - 15.2.4. Distance between RH working stations must be of 6 ft. (2m)
  - 15.2.5. No studio set ups will be allowed.
  - 15.2.6. All RH personnel must wear face mask at all time inside the stadium, if seen without the facemask on, the person will be asked to leave the stadium. This includes journalist that are recording or doing a live hit on camera.
  - 15.2.7. RH crew must provide their own face mask and sanitation equipment for a proper disinfection of their technical equipment.
  - 15.2.8. RH access will be limited to the zone they are assigned by the CMO.
  - 15.2.9. All RH have the right to attend the post-match press conference. Accommodation inside the press conference space will be determined by the CMO.
- 15.3. Broadcaster Staff must follow all directions of Concacaf Staff while at competition facilities or hotels.



VENUE

## Venue

### 16. Accommodations

- 16.1. Hotels must refer to Local Authorities' recommendations regarding COVID-19.
- 16.2. All individuals are to wear a mask when not in their assigned rooms.
- 16.3. Hand sanitizer will be made available by Hotel and LOC for all guest rooms and common areas (including hand sanitizing stations in meal and meeting rooms).
- 16.4. Guests should be advised to practice physical & social distancing from other individuals not in the same delegation at all times.

### 17. Meals

- 17.1. (Catering company/LOC/Hotel) will serve and abide by safety protocols as set forth by the Local Authorities. If no such protocols are in place Concacaf will provide guidelines for these issues.
- 17.2. Each team should have its exclusive meal area separate from other groups including other teams.
- 17.3. Servers will wear PPE at all times.

### 18. Facilities

#### 18.1. Training/Medical Room

- 18.1.1. Teams are responsible to clean and disinfect their training/medical room after each use.
- 18.1.2. LOC will provide hand sanitizing stations for teams.
- 18.1.3. LOC will provide a cleaning service for these rooms each day.
- 18.1.4. Only Players receiving medical care or treatment should be in the training room. Social distancing should be maintained other than the provider and the athlete.

## Concacaf | Return to Play Guidelines

18.1.5. PPE should be worn by medical Staff including gloves mask, goggles or eye protection and gown when treating an athlete or Staff member.

### 18.2. Weight Room

18.2.1. Teams and Referees must clean and disinfect all equipment after each use.

18.2.2. Ensure all equipment is returned to its rack.

18.2.3. Follow the Gym Safety Guidelines for social/physical distancing.

### 18.3. Laundry

18.3.1. All team laundry should be placed into a single bin.

18.3.2. It is recommended to use the warmest appropriate setting for laundry and fully allow items to dry.

18.3.3. It is the responsibility of the team to keep track of their laundry.

## 19. Stadium

### 19.1. Entry Points

19.1.1. All teams, Staff and stadium Staff are to wear face coverings at all times. (Exception: warm-ups, Player on field)

19.1.2. Venue Staff will have designated entry points separate from teams when available. This includes broadcast, media, venue Staff, sponsors, Concacaf Personnel, LOC and any other personnel required on matchday.

19.1.3. All individuals must have a valid and visible accreditation in order to enter the venue.

19.1.4. All individuals' temperatures will be screened upon entry to the venue.

### 19.2. Locker Rooms

19.2.1. Prior to each use the LOC/stadium Staff will ensure to clean and

## Concacaf | Return to Play Guidelines

disinfect all surfaces within the locker rooms. (doorknobs, light switches, tables, chairs, toilets, sinks, etc.)

19.2.2. All essential locker room items will be replenished as needed.

19.2.3. Hand sanitizer will be provided in each locker room. In the event of double-header, a minimum of four (4) sanitized locker rooms are required.

19.2.4. Any match day catering should be limited to pre-packaged snacks and uncut fruits. It is recommended that any catering or ice deliveries are made and placed in team locker room prior to the team's arrival.

### 19.3. Offices

19.3.1. All offices must be cleaned and disinfected by stadium Staff prior and post each use.

19.3.2. Maintain social distance of 6ft. (2m).

19.3.3. Wear face coverings at all times.

19.3.4. Individuals are to clean any surface that they have touched with disinfectant wipes (i.e. Desks, chairs, etc.).

### 19.4. Field of Play

19.4.1. The Field of Play is limited only to Technical Staff, Players, Referees, Concacaf Staff and volunteers.

19.4.2. Prior to use, stadium Staff will clean and disinfect all surfaces surrounding the pitch (i.e. benches, bench shields, goal posts, chairs, corner flags).

19.5. Benches are asked to respect the physical distancing guidelines by leaving a seat of at least 3 ft (1 m) in between each individual on the bench.

19.5.1. Depending on the venue, Substitute Players and/or Coaches may be asked to sit in temporary seating or in the stands.

19.5.2. All used equipment is to be collected and placed in a predesignated location after match is over in order for it to be cleaned and sanitized

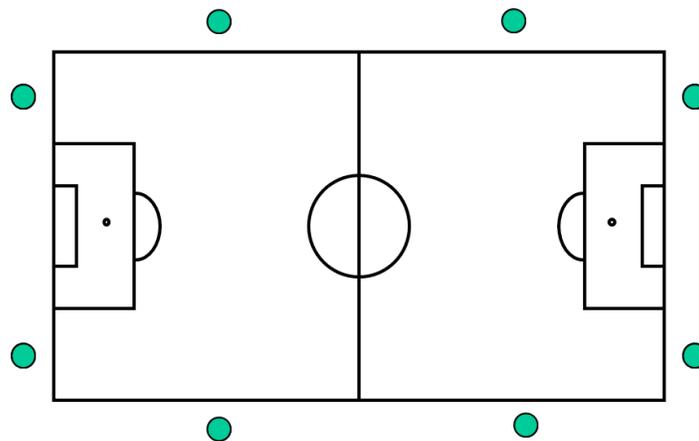
for its next use.

#### 19.6. Volunteers

19.6.1. Up to sixteen (16) volunteers should be used throughout the match. Volunteers must be over the age of 18.

##### 19.6.1.1. Eight (8) ball persons

19.6.1.1.1. They will be responsible for collecting the balls, sanitizing them and putting them on the ball stands provided by Concacaf or around the field if no ball stands available. Players will be responsible to gather the balls from the ball stands.



##### 19.6.1.2. Eight (8) EMS/stretchers crew(s)

19.6.2. They will be advised by the Concacaf Venue/Match Coordinator of their responsibilities and location during the match.

19.6.3. They will be responsible for sanitizing/cleaning the balls and playing it in the ball stands around the pitch.

19.6.4. No flag bearers will be utilized until further notice.

## 20. Stadium Zones

20.1. The stadium and its surroundings have been divided into the following zones:

20.1.1. Zone 1: The Interior – areas used exclusively for match operations (locker rooms, pitch, Players tunnel, back of house) where only limited people (Players, Coaching Staff, Referees, Concacaf and LOC Staff, volunteers, medical Staff, security and janitors) will be allowed.

20.1.2. Zone 2: Stands – not only includes the usual seating, but also media and broadcast personnel.

20.1.3. Zone 3: Stadium Exterior – extends to the outer boundary of the stadium (wall, fence, gate, divider, etc.). Anything outside this area is considered public space which falls under the jurisdiction of Local Authorities.

20.2. Should a Concacaf match be played behind closed doors, no public attendance will be admitted to the stadium. Only accredited essential Staff with a working function are permitted in the stadium (zones 1, 2, and 3). The total number of people permitted in the stadium premises will be stipulated by Concacaf following approved Local Authorities' guidelines.

20.2.1. Tier 1 Competitions – Maximum 300 individuals

20.2.2. Tier 2 Competitions – Maximum 200 individuals

20.2.3. Tier 3 Competitions – Maximum 100 individuals

20.2.4. Tier 4 Competitions – Maximum 100 individuals

20.3. Depending on the Local Authorities' guidelines, a specific number of people can be permitted to be on the stadium premises at once.

20.4. Stadium setup will be finalized 2 hours prior to the arrival of teams.



**SAFETY PRECAUTIONS**

## Safety Precautions

### 21. Risk Assessment of Football Events

21.1. Mass gatherings, in general, likely increase the risk of transmission of COVID-19. Public health administrators remain cautious regarding the possibility of a subsequent wave of infections.

21.2. Concacaf and FIFA stress the importance of preventing and controlling the spread of COVID-19 - by taking the steps required to ensure this remains paramount.

21.3. Key factors in determining risk:

21.3.1. National and sport specific regulations

21.3.2. Evidence of national/local community transmission of COVID-19

21.3.3. The requirement for individuals to travel from areas with COVID-19 transmission

21.3.4. The presence of vulnerable groups (>65) and or those with underlying cardiac, respiratory or immunocompromised conditions.

21.3.5. The health and medical infrastructure available in the locations where mass gatherings are due to occur.

21.3.6. Travel restrictions and advice for the locations to which Participants may be traveling.

21.4. Adhering to Local Authorities' guidelines

21.5. The ability to safely proceed with sporting events relies on a robust risk assessment and implementation of appropriate mitigation of factors that may contribute to the spread and/or re-introduction of COVID-19, even at times when the global transmission of the disease may be remitting.

An adaptation of WHO risk assessment tools has been developed by a group of football bodies to address specific challenges related to this sport. The football-specific risk assessment tool, in Excel spreadsheet format, will be regularly reviewed and updated as the pandemic evolves

For all events, which fall under the scope of this document, the use of this

football-specific risk assessment tool provided by FIFA is MANDATORY.

In order to accurately provide answers to the risk assessment and mitigation checklist, the host association as the event organizer, is required to be knowledgeable on the current COVID-19 outbreak, including the national COVID-19 situation reports, if available.

Host Country/Club must complete the risk assessment and submit to Concacaf prior to the match/competition as required by the administration:

- FIFA Football Specific Risk Assessment Tool:  
(<https://resources.fifa.com/image/upload/covid-19-football-ra-060520a-final-hsp.xlsx?cloudid=raw/upload/gasm901hqp2n0zj4mtrs.xlsx>)
- Concacaf reserves the right to appoint additional personnel for the purpose of monitoring, auditing or enforcement of COVID-19 measures as described in this document.

## 22. Protocol for positive COVID-19 results during Competition

22.1. If an Individual develops any COVID-19 symptoms during the competition, they must self-isolate immediately, contact their team medical Staff and be evaluated immediately. The delegation must notify Concacaf immediately.

22.1.1. The individual and any people that have been in contact with him/her must quarantine (as stated by Local Authorities) and be closely monitored for symptoms with temperature checks.

22.2. The individual must be tested for COVID-19. Those with a high-risk exposure should be tested prior to return to activities.

22.3. If the individual tests positive for COVID-19, he/she must be isolated in a room that is away from the rest of the teams to minimize the risk of transmission. The individual will be retested to make sure there isn't a false positive. If a positive result is confirmed, the individual will begin treatment and will undergo a period of rest and recovery lasting at least 10 days or as recommended by local health authorities.

22.3.1. If there is a positive COVID-19 test result for an individual from any team during the competition or after their elimination from the competition, such team is responsible to cover all costs associated

with their quarantine time.

22.3.2. If more than half of the players in the final list test positive for COVID-19, the entire delegation should be isolated and possibly sent home from the competition and/or be isolated in that location for 10 days or as recommended by local health authorities. Re-testing considerations can be considered.

22.4. If the individual tests negative for COVID-19, he/she will be allowed to resume normal activities once symptoms have passed. If the individual tests positive for COVID-19 they will be restricted from exercise and will have to pass cardiac tests before a return to play can be considered.

22.5. LOC will provide the contacts for all COVID-19 testing sites.

22.6. Teams must travel with International Medical Insurance and shall subsequently bear all costs of any medical expenses during the competition.

22.7. Contact tracing should follow current contact tracing guidelines as well as working with the LOC and local health authorities.

### 23. Hospital Visits Unrelated to COVID-19

23.1. Any individual who suffers an injury must be evaluated by the team's medical Staff. If the team's medical Staff determines that such Player must be hospitalized for further treatment, they must notify Concacaf.

23.2. After the individual receives treatment at the hospital, it is not required for the Player to isolate unless he/she has any symptoms. If the individual has come in close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19, that Player and anyone else that has been in contact with him/her must quarantine immediately.

23.3. If the Player can no longer play due to injury, it is recommended that the Player returns home.

### 24. Player health, fitness and injury considerations (FIFA)<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://resources.fifa.com/image/upload/1718-covid-19-medical-considerations-for-a-return-to-footballing-activity.pdf?cloudid=cpng0f3y5pclmxn0prdb>

- 24.1. Consideration needs to be given to the ranging fitness levels that footballers may possess on returning to training and steps must be considered to prevent the predicted increased risk of injury. Attention is to be paid to the following factors:
  - 24.1.1. whether a Player has contracted COVID-19 and, in the event of contagion, if any sequelae are present;
  - 24.1.2. the duration of the detraining period and the confinement;
  - 24.1.3. the level of physical activity that the Player maintained during the detraining period; and
  - 24.1.4. the duration of the expected return-to-fitness/return-to-play period.
- 24.2. Therefore, per the above points, it is extremely important that sufficient time be allowed for the return to play, so that:
  - 24.2.1. At the time of resuming sports activity, suitable health screening and testing allowing objective evaluation of the Players' physical and mental condition are performed.
  - 24.2.2. There is an appropriate pre-competition period with a training plan, including both aerobic and strength conditioning training. Adequate durations for "isolation" training, small-group training, team training and football-specific training must be taken into consideration.
- 24.3. Players must also be reminded of their obligations concerning prohibited substances and the risk of anti-doping rule violations, with specific emphasis placed on medications and/or supplements that they may choose to take in response to COVID-19.
- 24.4. Any Player who has tested COVID-19 positive and is placed in isolation should have daily checks and full resources as best possible for mental and physical health purposes, this can include the consideration of virtual or tele-health checks, considering providing a bicycle in the room as long as asymptomatic and other considerations.



OTHER MATTERS

## Other Matters

### 25. Safety & Security

25.1. The LOC will provide to Concacaf a Safety & Security Plan no later than 30 days prior to the competition outlining the safety and security protocols that the LOC will follow as set forth by Local Authorities. The plan should outline all details regarding, but not limited to local hospitals, local doctors, local testing sites (COVID-19), stadium security plan, training security plan, designated training zones, sanitization program and match day security plan.

### 26. Disciplinary Measures

26.1. Member Associations and Clubs are responsible to ensure that every member of its delegation complies with Concacaf COVID-19 Guidelines and all other applicable regulations, directives, circulars, and decisions made by Concacaf, its Council, and Concacaf Judicial Bodies.

26.2. Member Associations and Clubs shall take all necessary actions for their Players and Team Officials to be bound and comply with all obligations, rules, codes, protocols, stipulations and requirements set forth by Concacaf and Local Authorities.

26.3. In case of infringement of these and all applicable regulations or unsporting behavior on the part of Member Associations, Clubs, Players, Team Officials, Coaches, Match Officials, LOC (stadium Staff) or in any kind of incident, the Concacaf Disciplinary Committee is empowered to take disciplinary action.

26.4. Decisions passed by Concacaf's Disciplinary Committee must be respected by Member Associations, Clubs, Players, Team Officials, Coaches, Match Officials, LOC (stadium Staff) without exception.

### 27. Conclusion

27.1. Protecting the health and well-being of every individual remains of paramount importance to Concacaf. It is important that the following measures continue to be advocated: enhanced hygiene, physical distancing, healthy lifestyle choices, eating well and avoiding non-essential travel. Football governing bodies, federations, leagues, clubs and all football organizations must come together to cautiously and methodically prepare for a post-pandemic return to footballing activities. This document

can support that process, alongside the expert guidance provided by public health authorities in countries throughout the region. Even with the sport returning with protocols and testing provisions in place, every person involved in a football team or game continues to have a responsibility to support measures which prevent the spread of COVID-19 as we all work together to resume the sport.



Concacaf