



Enhanced COVID-19 Protocols for High Level Competitions

These enhanced protocols are in addition to all federal, state and county orders, as well as U.S. Ski & Snowboard organizational domestic competition and sport specific competition guidance documents.

The novel coronavirus, COVID-19, has been declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization. **COVID-19 is extremely contagious and is believed to be airborne and spread from person-to-person contact and can lead to severe illness and death.** An inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 exists in any public place where people are present. U.S. Ski & Snowboard has put in place measures to help reduce the spread of COVID-19; however, there cannot be any guarantee that participants will not become infected with COVID-19. Attending training and competitions could increase the risk of contracting COVID-19.

As high level competitions (Nationals, NorAms, Continental Cups) are more likely to involve multiple day competition and attract participants from a wider array of locations, and therefore increase associated travel, the following protocols are suggested to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 contraction and transmission.

In the event of a positive COVID-19 test result, the identified individual will be removed immediately from the competition and will be subject to local health authority policies and procedures. [Contact tracing](#) should also be conducted immediately and anyone who is identified as a close contact* of the positive individual will also be removed from the competition and subject to local health authority policies and procedures.

*Close contact is defined by the CDC as being within six (6) feet of someone who is COVID-19 positive for more than 15 minutes in any 24 hour time frame (this CDC guidance is subject to change at any time).

Pre-Competition COVID-19 Testing

PCR testing should be utilized wherever possible. In the event that PCR testing cannot be performed, FDA EUA approved antigen tests can be utilized as an alternative.

- Each credentialed athlete, coach, service technician, official, course worker, and volunteer who may have close contact* with other individuals at the competition must have a negative COVID-19 test result from a sample that was collected within 72 hours of the start of the competition.
- In the event of international travel into competition, the COVID-19 testing should be conducted within 72 hours or less after the individuals have traveled.
- The negative COVID-19 test result should be submitted to the COVID-19 Coordinator.

The negative COVID-19 test result should include the following information:

- Name of patient
- Patient date of birth
- Date/time of sample collection
- Method of collection (saliva, nasal) and analysis (PCR, antigen)



- Contact details of the laboratory that performed the test
- If a negative COVID-19 test is not submitted to the COVID-19 Coordinator the individual should be denied a credential/access to the venue.
- In the event of a positive COVID-19 test, please refer to [U.S. Ski & Snowboard COVID-19 Competition Guidance](#) (page 7).

Mid-Competition COVID-19 Testing

- If the duration of the scheduled event is longer than 96 hours (four (4) days), then each credentialed athlete, coach, service technician, official, course worker, and volunteer who is participating for more than 96 hours should have a second COVID-19 test administered at the 96 hour point. Quick (ideally same day) laboratory processing times become important in this instance and rapid antigen tests may be preferred.

Best Practice COVID-19 Guidance

The following guidance should be considered “best practices,” and while not mandatory to compete in the high level events, they are strongly advised.

COVID-19 Coordinator Training

- It is recommended that the assigned COVID-19 Coordinator for high level events has undergone [contact tracing training](#) so that they can best assist local health authorities should there be a confirmed COVID-19 positive case at the competition.

Close Contact

- For the seven (7) days prior to the competition, and during the competition itself, the number of close contacts and community exposures at home or at the competition location should be minimized to essential only.

Lodging

- Accommodation should only be with those who have also received a negative COVID-19 test result and are following the same protocols. Wherever possible, accommodation groups should be kept small (ideally four (4) individuals or less), so that in the event of a COVID-19 positive case the likelihood of additional close contacts is minimized.

Dining

- Wherever possible, food should be prepared and eaten within lodging groups and separately, or only with households/roommates (not teammates staying in other lodging). Groceries or restaurant food should be delivered or curbside pick up only. Eating in a public restaurant is strongly discouraged.



Transportation

- Public transport once on site at the competition location should be minimised and preferably not used at all. Personal vehicles should be used, riding with households/roommates only.