

GUIDANCE FOR TESTING DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

November 2020

Introduction

This “Guidance for Testing During COVID-19 Pandemic” is an update to the previous document titled “[COVID-19: ADO Guidance for Resuming Testing](#)” issued by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) to Anti-Doping Organizations (ADOs) [on 6 May 2020](#).

Amendments to this document were proposed by the newly formed WADA [Strategic Testing Expert Group](#) and include the outcomes from the survey on the impact of COVID-19¹, issued by WADA to ADOs in September 2020. Further input was also provided by a group of global National Anti-Doping Organizations (NADOs)² as well as the World Health Organization (WHO).

This document covers the resumption and continuation of testing with a continued focus on health and safety for both Sample Collection Personnel (SCP) and athletes and includes the following:

1. Updated guidance on the actions or the steps that ADOs should consider such as:
 - A more defined assessment process to determine the level of sample collection that can take place;
 - The steps and procedures that an ADO should put in place prior to conducting a sample collection session;
 - Additional guidance on how to prioritize testing missions and athletes, plus measures for conducting In-competition testing;
 - The testing of SCP for COVID-19 as an additional risk mitigation measure; and
 - Who to communicate with (e.g., athletes, Sample Collection Authorities (SCAs) and laboratories) as ADOs prepare to resume or continue their testing activities.
2. Examples of risk mitigation measures that should be added to sample collection procedures (Annex A), as well as an example of a ‘COVID-19 Athlete Questionnaire’ (Annex C); and
3. Supporting information and best practices regarding the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) (Annex B).

Each country is at a different phase of the pandemic, and WADA urges all ADOs to continue to follow the advice of national governments and health authorities to ensure the health and safety of athletes and SCP. Prior to planning to conduct testing, ADOs should also conduct a detailed assessment of the situation from both a health and sporting context.

¹ In relation to the feedback received from ADOs through the COVID-19 survey, on the “COVID-19: ADO Guidance for Resuming Testing” document, 95% of ADOs that responded found the guidance document somewhat useful, useful, or very useful.

² WADA thanks the NADOs from the following countries for their collaboration: Austria, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, and the United States.

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Given the different situations and phases of the pandemic specific to each country, it is difficult to establish one overarching set of guidelines. In fact, some countries are applying restrictions in a more targeted manner to areas and communities where higher levels of infection are reported and avoiding countrywide lockdowns. Therefore, the following recommendations aim to offer general guidance for ADOs as they consider resuming or adjusting their testing programs. In doing so, everyone's priority should be the same; namely: ensuring the health and safety of athletes as well as SCP, whilst maintaining the integrity of the sample collection process by ensuring that all procedures are in compliance with the [International Standard for Testing and Investigations \(ISTI\)](#).

It is important to note that, as vaccines become available and distributed, the safeguards and measures outlined in this document should continue until national/local guidance suggests that additional protections are no longer required.

1.0 Testing Program Assessment

The decision by an ADO to conduct testing during the COVID-19 pandemic should begin by assessing several criteria which should guide if, how, when and where testing should resume or be adjusted. This assessment should be routinely reconsidered as the status of the pandemic and restrictions change, and follow the guidance of national, regional or local authorities. The scope of the assessment may vary between different locations, the prioritization of athletes and the type of testing.

1.1 Is it permitted and safe to conduct testing?

The points below are provided as examples of what should be considered in determining whether it is permitted and/or safe to conduct testing:

- a) The prevalence of active COVID-19 infections and whether there are movement and/or social gathering restrictions. For example:
 - i) Are individuals or SCP in the relevant country or region within a country where testing is planned to take place allowed to circulate or are movements restricted?
 - ii) Are SCP permitted to enter the location where athletes are based, e.g. the athletes' house?
- b) Are sports training facilities open for athlete training and what entry restrictions are in place that may require additional planning in advance to access?
- c) Are sport competitions being held in that country and if so, are there any specific protocols or restrictions in place regarding entry into and operation at such events for SCP, e.g., testing of SCP for COVID-19?
- d) Is sufficient personal protection equipment (PPE) available?

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Note: If an ADO decides based on its assessment and the national restrictions in place that it is appropriate to temporarily stop testing, the ADO should advise WADA via email to SandH@wada-ama.org.

1.2 Testing is permitted; what should be the next steps?

Prior to implementing testing, an ADO should ensure that areas outlined below have been considered. For example:

- a) ADOs should engage with relevant WADA-accredited laboratories to confirm their operational status.
 - i) If a WADA-accredited laboratory is unable to accept samples due to its closure or border restrictions or is not accepting the shipment of samples from foreign countries, consider another laboratory in a country that you can safely send your samples to. If your own national borders are closed and you are unable to ship samples outside of your country, consider the temporary storage of samples in a secure location and speak to a WADA-accredited laboratory about such requirements prior to doing so.
 - ii) It is also recommended that ADOs check with the laboratory regarding any adjustments in results reporting times as some laboratories may be operating with staff/resource limitations, and this may affect turnaround times for sample reporting.
 - iii) You can consult the [latest list](#) of WADA-accredited laboratories (and WADA-approved laboratories) and find information on their operational status during this COVID-19 period to ensure that sample deliveries will be accepted.³
 - iv) B sample analysis: If an athlete has returned an adverse analytical finding and has requested the analysis of their B sample but is unable to attend this procedure due to travel restrictions in their country or the country where the WADA-accredited laboratory is located, the athlete may;
 - appoint their own representative who is located in the country where the laboratory is based;
 - request that an independent witness be appointed by the laboratory on their behalf to witness the opening and re-sealing of the B sample;
 - request in exceptional circumstances, and with WADA's prior written approval, that the B sample be shipped to another WADA-accredited laboratory in which the athlete can travel to without any restrictions; or
 - where available and with the agreement of the laboratory, request a video stream of the opening and resealing of the B sample may be able to be provided.

³ The laboratory may, based on its risk assessment, refuse to analyze a sample if it is proven to come from a COVID-19 infected individual. In such cases the ADO shall decide whether to report the sample as not analyzed in ADAMS or have it transferred to another laboratory willing to analyze it.

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- b) ADOs should ensure that any new requirements to safely conduct testing have been effectively communicated to the relevant stakeholders (e.g., athletes, National Federations (NFs), National Olympic Committees (NOCs), National Paralympic Committees (NPCs), event organizers).
- c) ADOs should develop procedures to deal with different scenarios related to a sample collection session and communicate those to SCP, where relevant. For example:
 - i) How SCP apply the enhanced health and hygiene protocols;
 - ii) How SCP deal with an athlete responding 'YES' to questions in the Athlete Health Questionnaire located at Annex C of this document;
 - iii) How SCP deal with an athlete refusing to be tested or allowing SCP to enter their home due to COVID-19;
 - iv) How you deal with SCP or an athlete, if they test positive for COVID-19 shortly after sample collection has taken place; and
 - v) How you record in ADAMS that the test was not conducted because the athlete answered 'YES' to the 'COVID-19 Athlete Questionnaire' and how you might re-schedule this testing mission.

1.3 How should I prioritize testing missions and athletes?

Where an ADO assesses that it is permitted and safe to conduct testing, then the ADO should consider if it needs to adjust its Risk Assessment and its Test Distribution Plan. This adjustment may be an ongoing process as restrictions increase or decrease in specific locations. If there are no restrictions in place, then ADOs should continue to implement their Test Distribution Plans accordingly.

If there are some restrictions in place which limit the number of tests that can be conducted, or if an ADO is starting to resume testing, the points outlined below should be considered to determine the type of testing mission that can be implemented and/or prioritized.

a) Testing location:

The ADO will need to consider the risk and restrictions relative to any training or competition venue where testing may take place, including any procedures that persons entering these venues must follow, what infection prevention and control measures are in place, the number of other people likely to be present at the venue, the location and layout of the doping control station to be used, and whether the doping control station is suitable based on the number of athletes to be tested and the number of SCP appointed. Consider requesting a secure doping control station be allocated at a training or competition venue so that it can be used solely for testing when SCP arrive at the testing location unannounced.

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Given each country is at a different phase of applying or lifting such restrictions, consider whether you can test athletes who are located in the relevant country and/or athletes located abroad. For a NADO or an IF requesting testing of an athlete overseas, they should liaise closely with the relevant NADO to ensure it is safe to do so and that relevant health and safety measures, as per any national authority regulations and current [WADA COVID-19 guidance](#), can be put in place or considered.

b) Out-of-competition testing and small testing missions:

If an athlete is not training at a training facility, then focus on out-of-competition testing at the athlete's house. Prior to planning such as mission, remember to verify whether the athlete has provided information as part of their whereabouts filing regarding their health status or that of anyone they resided with, which may impact the testing mission.

If there are restrictions preventing SCP from entering the athlete's house or the training facility, consider the availability of a secure doping control station within or close by the training facility or the athletes' house that has sufficient space to enable social/physical distancing.

ADOs may wish to consider the use of a mobile doping control station (e.g., motor home) where a suitable doping control station is not available at a training facility or there are restrictions preventing SCP from entering the athlete's house. Such mobile doping control stations should be large enough to ensure social/physical distancing can be maintained as much as possible throughout the process, has ventilation, ensures the athlete's privacy is maintained, is accessible for athletes with impairments, and that all surfaces that the athlete may come in contact with are disinfected, including before and after each athlete.

Should an IF, NF, sporting organization or other authorities such as national or local health authorities require the implementation of specific conditions or protocols (e.g., testing of SCP for COVID-19) for entry into a training facility or location, such conditions or protocols should be communicated to the relevant ADOs with authority to conduct testing on such athletes with sufficient advance notice so that they have time to plan a testing mission and meet the necessary conditions. If the ADO plans a testing mission to occur in such locations but has not been advised of any conditions or protocols, the ADO should contact the relevant authorities prior to authorizing the testing mission to confirm this.

c) In-competition testing missions:

Where sporting events and competitions are being held, it is important that the IF, NADO or SCA liaises closely with the event organizer, or the relevant NF in advance of the event to understand if there are any specific entry requirements for SCP. Many events will be permitted to take place based on an agreement with national or local health authorities and NFs/IFs (where applicable) that requires specific conditions and protocols to be put in place by the event

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organizer and that must be followed by all participants and persons involved or who enter the event venue or location.

As such, it is important that IFs, NADOs and SCAs liaise with the relevant organizations far enough in advance of the event to allow them to understand the requirements and minimize the impact to the planned testing program.

For example, some events may require that all participants and persons who enter the event location (sometimes referred to as a ‘bubble’) have had a negative COVID-19 test a certain number of days prior to their entry and must present a certificate of that test on entry.

It is important to note that whilst recognizing that such requirements may be considered as part of risk minimization, the value of testing asymptomatic individuals is still controversial and an evolving research area. There are a number of factors to consider such as the timing, frequency and reliability of the test. Furthermore, COVID-19 tests may not be available to SCP for various reasons such as limited access to testing centers, cost, ability of SCP to self-isolate for an extended period⁴, etc. In such cases, early communication between the event organizer, the IF or the NF and the NADO or SCA is required to discuss alternative solutions, which may include the event organizer or national or local authorities assisting with access to specific COVID-19 testing, agreeing who will cover the costs for such COVID-19 tests, or allowing SCP restricted access within the event venue while maintaining the use of personal protection equipment (PPE) and enhanced hygiene measures.

d) Urine sample collection:

Ensure the number of SCP appointed to a testing mission is kept to a minimum for each mission based on the ability to appropriately monitor the number of athletes to be tested from the point of notification until the end of the sample collection session.

e) Blood sample collection:

Consider the collection of blood samples if intelligence warrants it or for the purpose of the blood module of the Athlete Biological Passport (ABP) on athletes from high risk endurance sports. In addition to PPE, consider additional protection measures such as:

- i) both the BCO and the athlete wearing a face mask and potentially adding a face shield for the BCO;
- ii) the BCO should wear disposable gloves and consider using a disposable apron, a single use tourniquet, limiting jewelry on hands and wrists, and wearing short sleeves or rolling up sleeves to the elbows.

⁴ The effectiveness of any COVID-19 test in minimizing the risk of transmission depends on whether all persons intending to access the event venue remain within self-isolation immediately after the COVID-19 test is conducted until the time the results are issued and they enter the event ‘bubble’. If there is no such self-isolation, the risk of transmission increases.

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f) Prioritizing athletes:

As you plan to select athletes for testing, consider focusing on:

- i) Athletes who have qualified or may qualify for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic or Paralympic Games due to take place in 2021;
- ii) Athletes who have qualified or may qualify for other major events such as World Championships;
- iii) Athletes in a Registered Testing Pool (RTP) or other whereabouts pool from high risk sports and/or disciplines;
- iv) Athletes from whom there is intelligence and/or suspicious ABP profiles and/or Athlete Passport Management Unit (APMU) recommendations for testing; and
- v) Sports categorized as high risk that are not Olympic or Paralympic sports.

1.4 Are there any other strategies I can consider?

Where ADOs have samples in long-term storage, they should consider liaising with WADA-accredited laboratory partners to discuss the application of further analyses on those samples. This could include further analysis for categories of prohibited substances that were not previously applied, or where advancements in detection methodology and/or sensitivity have occurred since the initial analyses.

This strategy should focus on samples in storage from high-risk athletes, including those qualified for or attempting to qualify for major events such as the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games.

In addition, when testing resumes after a period of limited or no sample collection, ADOs should also consider the long-term storage of the first samples collected from high-risk athletes.

2.0 Health and Hygiene Measures and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Use

Based on the [World Health Organization](#) (WHO) recommendations, as well as national government and health regulations, consider any additional PPE and cleaning and disinfection material that can be provided to your SCP. Include references to those additional measures in your sample collection procedures.

Specifically, consider procuring and providing the following equipment to be used during the sample collection session:

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2.1 Hand sanitizer:

It is recommended that SCP and athletes use hand sanitizer several times during the sample collection process (see Annex A). If hand sanitizer is not available or SCP are allergic to it, refer to Annex A as to when SCP should wash their hands and how it must be done 'hand rub technique' in Annex B.1.

2.2 Gloves:

For blood collection, Blood Collection Officers (BCOs) should wear gloves in line with general health care recommendations.

For urine collection, SCP may choose to wear gloves but should be aware that they may be contaminated during the sample collection process (i.e., touching their face or other surfaces) and are therefore not a substitute for hand hygiene. If gloves are used, it is recommended that SCP put on new gloves at the beginning of the sample collection process. As a result, provide clear instructions on when SCP should wear and replace their gloves (see Annex A) and how to safely remove and dispose of them (see Annex B).

2.3 Face masks:

The WHO recommends the use of a face mask as standard protection, which should be worn by SCP at all times during the sample collection process. It is also recommended that a face mask be made available to the athlete and their representative or that they wear their own face mask during the sample collection session. During blood collection, it is recommended that face masks be used by both the BCO and the athlete due to the increased physical proximity necessary to collect a blood sample.

The use of medical or non-medical masks or a face covering (i.e., something constructed to completely cover the nose and mouth, without gaps, and secured to the head by ties or ear loops) would be acceptable although, when possible, the best quality masks should be used. At this time, there is not enough information on face shields or gaiters and therefore these should not be used instead of masks. Therefore, provide clear instructions on when SCP should wear face masks (see Annex A) and how to safely put them on and remove them (see Annex B).

It should be noted that some national or local health authorities may mandate the wearing of a mask in certain situations. However, as the prevalence of COVID-19 decreases in some parts of the world and with no community spread, wearing a mask may not be required by government authorities. Nevertheless, while respecting the local health authorities' guidance, SCP are advised to continue to maintain strict hygiene practices and, where possible, wear a mask to mitigate risk.

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2.4 Cleaning/disinfecting products:

It is recommended that SCP are provided with additional products, such as: disinfecting wipes, disinfectant spray and/or appropriate concentrations of isopropyl alcohol, hydrogen peroxide or sodium hypochlorite (i.e., bleach) for the cleaning of surfaces and equipment. Provide clear instructions on when and how SCP should use these products (see Annex A).

3.0 Sample Collection Personnel

As ADOs resume or adjust their testing program, it is crucial to consider the measures in place to protect SCP and ensure they are properly trained on any updated and revised procedures. Consider the steps outlined below.

3.1 Reducing your pool of SCP:

Consider how you can reduce, where possible, the number of SCP you assign to testing missions (without compromising no-advance notice or any modifications that are required such as when testing minors) to minimize the risk of transmitting COVID-19 to athletes.

3.2 Travelling and transport:

Review how SCP travel to testing missions and implement any measures that would reduce or eliminate the use of public transport or air travel, otherwise mitigate its risk.

3.3 Communication and training:

Provide information regarding your revised testing policies and conduct specific training for SCP who will be collecting samples during this COVID-19 period as it relates to the additional measures in place, including general infection prevention control training. This training may occur online using a virtual platform. Ensure SCP understand the additional measures that need to be implemented as part of the sample collection procedures and keep records of this training and what it covered. Specifically, provide clear instructions to SCP on:

- a) hand washing:** when SCP and athletes should wash their hands (see Annex A) and how it must be done (see Annex B).
- b) handling/disposal of waste material:** all disposable material should be safely disposed of into a garbage bag and sealed by SCP and all biohazardous material should be safely disposed of as per local medical regulations and taken by SCP at the end of the sample collection session.
- c) social/physical distancing:** SCP should maintain a minimum of one to two meters distance (or otherwise as stipulated by your national health authority) between themselves and an

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athlete as much as practical. This means that SCP should strictly refrain from unnecessary physical contact, such as shaking hands with athletes or their representative and should avoid any other direct contact. Some specific situations during the sample collection process (for example, blood collection, space limitations and/or the need for direct observation of urine sample provision) may not allow the recommended distance to be maintained at all times. The use of PPE and enhanced hygiene measures as outlined in this document will minimize the risk if short periods of closer distance occur, which should also be kept as short as possible.

- d) **ventilation:** if possible, areas where sample collection is taking place should have some ventilation.
- e) **COVID-19 and athletes:** further to section 1.2 c) above, SCP must know how to deal with various COVID-19 related scenarios such as an athlete who refuses to be tested, and an athlete who responds 'YES' to the Athlete Health Questionnaire.

3.4 Higher risk SCP groups:

ADOs should carefully consider which SCP are involved in testing during the COVID-19 period. ADOs should consider excluding SCP that is at higher risk of transmitting the virus or higher risk of serious illness. While examples are provided below, ADOs should establish appropriate categories that are country specific.

a) SCP who are at higher risk of transmitting the virus:

- i) SCP who work in a health care setting and who are in contact with COVID-19 positive patients.
- ii) SCP who have been within close proximity of someone who tested positive or who was infected.
- iii) SCP who have taken part in testing athletes who tested COVID-19 positive within 14 days after the specific test session.
- iv) SCP who live with a person identified in one of the situations above, or who displays symptoms or recently returned from a high-risk country or a region of high community transmission, or does not meet whatever national guidelines or criteria which might be in place at the applicable time in the relevant country.

b) SCP who are at higher risk of serious illness:

This refers to individuals who may be considered more vulnerable and could suffer serious consequences if they contract COVID-19. These individuals should pay particular attention to avoid situations where they may contract the disease. However, if SCP still wish to be considered for testing missions, the ADO may request them to sign an informed consent so they are aware of the risk and the ADO's recommendation that SCP in any of the groups listed under points i, ii and iii below should not accept missions during the pandemic given the higher

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risk of serious illness if they get infected. These include:

- i) SCP who are over 60 years old (NOTE: Identifying a specific age is difficult. This may vary from country to country, but the general consensus is that older individuals are more vulnerable).
- ii) SCP who have pre-existing medical conditions such as diabetes, heart disease or respiratory conditions.
- iii) SCP who have compromised immune systems.

NOTE: Athletes, and members of their households, may also be part of a vulnerable population based on pre-existing medical conditions or compromised immune systems. Such information should be requested as part of the athletes' whereabouts submission and/or the athlete questionnaire in Annex C.⁵

3.5 SCP Self-Assessment:

For the SCP who will be conducting testing, develop a mechanism in which, if permitted by applicable data protection, health, and employment laws, SCP should self-assess before departing for a scheduled testing mission to which they have been assigned (i.e., on the same day) that:

- a) they are well, have no symptoms suggestive of COVID-19, including a sore throat, cough, fever, loss of taste and smell, however mild those symptoms might be;
- b) they have not been in direct contact with anyone whom they know is awaiting to be tested for COVID-19 due to the development of symptoms or is awaiting a test result for COVID-19;
- c) they have not been in contact with anyone who is quarantined and/or self-isolating; and
- d) they have not travelled internationally within the last 14 days.

NOTE: In some countries, there may be a mobile application available that may replace a written questionnaire, e.g. for employees working in an office each day and who are required to complete a set of standard health questions. There are also contact tracing or exposure notification applications. The latter have not been validated but may be an additional system to further reduce the risk that SCP may be infected prior to accepting a testing mission.

The questions above could be included in a brief questionnaire that SCP sign off on before a mission. If they can confirm the above, the document can be submitted to the ADO with the remainder of the doping control documentation after the completed mission. The ADO should keep

⁵ It is also important to verify with local data protection authorities when determining what COVID-19-related personal information the ADO is authorized to collect. A list of data protection guidance on COVID-19 is available here: <https://iapp.org/resources/article/dpa-guidance-on-covid-19/>

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a record of these self-assessments for every SCP and every testing mission in accordance with data protection requirements. If SCP cannot confirm that they are well, without COVID-19 related symptoms, they should contact the ADO immediately and not proceed with any testing mission.

NOTE: *While the current recommendations are specifically related to COVID-19, it is important to note that SCP should not be involved in a testing mission if they are ill, regardless if it is related to COVID-19.*

3.6 Testing SCP for COVID-19:

As COVID-19 testing becomes more accessible and reliable, and to further minimize the risk of transmitting infection, ADOs may consider, subject to national or local regulations, whether SCP should be tested prior to testing missions in addition to where it is not a requirement for entry into an event venue or location. Further information regarding COVID-19 testing is outlined below:

- a) Antigen testing and Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) testing detects whether there is an active infection, however there is a risk of false negative and false positive results. The timing, frequency and reliability of any such testing also needs to be carefully considered, as well as the testing matrix applied (e.g. nasal or pharyngeal swab), availability and costs. Although the testing of asymptomatic individuals is still an evolving area, testing of SCP may provide an additional layer of risk reduction.
- b) Antibody testing shows whether an individual was previously infected with the COVID-19 virus and is valuable for epidemiological studies but is not recommended to determine whether a person is presently infected or immune to further infection. The concept of immunity (whether post-infection or following a vaccine) is evolving as more data is being collected. It appears now that reinfection may occur but data at present remains scarce.
- c) Data to date shows that a person who was sick and recovered from COVID-19 may still present a positive PCR test result months after initial laboratory confirmation even though they are no longer spreading COVID-19 virus. In these cases, it is recommended that SCP consult with a physician and abide by local health authority guidance regarding return to work.

Regardless of whether there was a negative result on a COVID-19 test or whether SCP had previously contracted the virus, it is recommended that physical/social distancing, the use of PPE and enhanced hygiene measures continue to be followed.

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4.0 Information and Communication Strategy for Athletes and Other Stakeholders

4.1 Develop information and education material to convey the following messages:

- a) Sample collection is safe if done based on the relevant national and health authorities' regulations and additional measures have been put in place to further protect the athletes' health and minimize the risk of COVID-19 transmission during sample collection.
- b) SCP that are conducting testing are experienced, trained in infection control and not in any of the groups identified as a higher risk of transmitting the virus (see section 3.4a) above), are required to self-assess before every testing mission that they are in good health and have not been in contact with individuals exposed to COVID-19 (see section 3.4 b) above).
- c) Additional personal information may be requested from athletes during sample collection to ensure their health and safety and to conduct contact tracing, and the manner in which this information will be used, stored and shared.
- d) Athlete whereabouts is maintained and kept accurate at all times during the pandemic and, based on point 4.1 c) above, include specific information about their health status or that of any person that the athlete may reside with as part of their whereabouts information in ADAMS. This should include if there are any COVID-19 related restrictions (e.g. quarantine) that would prevent the athlete from being tested, such as the athlete or any person the athlete resides with having COVID-19 or symptoms of COVID-19, or the athlete self-isolating due to a pre-existing medical condition that renders them vulnerable.

NOTE: *In requesting athletes to provide information regarding their health status as part of their whereabouts filing, a warning regarding the importance of providing accurate information and possible consequences should also be made clear (as contained in the Athlete Health Questionnaire at Annex C). Based on any information the athlete provides on their health status, the ADO may contact the athlete prior to any test taking place to obtain a greater understanding of the athlete's situation and, where applicable, may request that the athlete provide documentation to validate the athlete's health situation, in particular if the ADO has reason to believe that the athlete may be avoiding testing by abusing this situation.*

4.2 Share this information and education material through various communication channels:

For example:

- a) Communicate directly to athletes via email and invite them to communicate with you regarding any question or concerns.

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b) Distribute this information to the relevant National Federations, National Olympic Committees and National Paralympic Committees.

c) Share it on your website, via social media channels, etc.

4.3 Develop a specific ‘COVID-19 Athlete Information Letter’:

SCP can provide an information letter to athletes during sample collection. This letter should include the following:

a) outline that, based on relevant national and/or health government directives, sample collection is safe to conduct and that additional measures have been put in place to further protect the athletes’ health and minimize the risk of COVID-19 transmission during sample collection;

b) confirm that the athlete in question has been selected for doping control and the requirement to comply;

c) outline the potential consequences to the athlete should they refuse to comply;

d) request that the athlete contacts you (ADO) if their health status changes;

e) summarize the additional personal information that the ADO will ask athletes to provide to ensure their health and safety as well as that of SCP, and the manner in which this information will be used, stored and shared; and

f) provide appropriate ADO contact information for any questions or follow-up.

4.4 Develop a communication strategy to address if any SCP or athlete contracts COVID-19:

a) If any SCP contracts COVID-19, athletes who have been tested by the SCP within the last 14 days should be informed as well as the laboratory. The identity of the SCP should not be disclosed. The SCP should follow any government health authority recommendations on contact tracing and quarantine.

b) Alternatively, athletes who are tested and subsequently contract COVID-19 should be encouraged to inform the ADO that was responsible for the SCP who collected the sample so that the SCP and the laboratory (through the provision of the sample code number only) can be contacted and advised.

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Conclusion

WADA encourages all ADOs and SCAs to adopt these guidelines to the best of their ability based on their available resources and the situation in the relevant country. Such guidelines should remain in place until national health authorities advise otherwise. As the pandemic changes and evolves, WADA will monitor the situation very closely based on expert information from the [World Health Organization](#) and from other reliable sources. WADA will continue to engage with the anti-doping community and revise/update these guidelines as required.

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Annex A – Sample Collection Procedures Template

The following outlines information and procedures that Anti-Doping Organizations (ADOs) can use to revise and adapt their sample collection procedures during the COVID-19 pandemic and as restrictions are lifted by health and government authorities. In addition to these procedures, the standard sample collection procedures shall follow the International Standard for Testing and Investigations (ISTI), including any modifications that are necessary for minors and athletes with impairments.

These can be added to an existing Sample Collection Personnel (SCP) Manual or provided as a stand-alone document that would complement existing sample collection procedures. These are written for SCP and should be adapted and ‘personalized’ (e.g., include ADO name, etc.) accordingly.

1. Preparing for a Testing Mission

In addition to regular and standard sample collection equipment, ensure you have the following:

- a) COVID-19 Athlete Information Letter⁶
- c) COVID-19 Athlete Questionnaire⁷
- d) Disposable gloves
- e) Hand sanitizer
- f) Disinfectant wipes and/or disinfectant spray and/or disposable tablecloth
- g) Disposable face masks (medical face masks or non-medical masks or face covering)
- h) New and unused pens
- i) Garbage bags for safe disposal of waste (if they are not usually provided to SCP)

In addition to regular and standard preparatory work and review, ahead of any testing mission, ensure you:

- j) Have conducted your self-health-check.
- k) Review the “Safety Measures Information Guide”⁸.

⁶ Example of content for the Athlete Information letter is provided in Section 4.3 of this document.

⁷ An example and template of a ‘COVID-19 Athlete Questionnaire’ is provided in Annex C of this document.

⁸ A ‘Safety Measures Information Guide’ is provided in Annex B of this document.

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- l) Review the additional measures contained in this document.
- m) Contact the ADO ahead of the testing mission with any questions or concerns.

2. Arriving at the Athlete's Testing Location

- a) As you arrive at the testing location, and just before locating the athlete for notification, clean your hands using the 'hand rub' technique.
- b) Put a disposable face mask on.

3. Pre-Notification Information

- a) While respecting the social/physical distancing recommendations (including not shaking hands), introduce yourself and inform the athlete that they have been selected for doping control. Show your accreditation, authorization letter (i.e., 'standard' ADO authorization letter) and the 'COVID-19 Athlete Information Letter'. If possible, and if you are at an athlete's home, remain outside.
- b) While remaining outside (and before proceeding with formal notification), ask the athlete the following questions:
 - i) Are you or anyone present with you at this location or who resides with you, experiencing any symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 (i.e., sore throat, cough, fever or loss of taste and smell)?
 - ii) Do you or anyone present with you at this location or who resides with you, have COVID-19 (confirmed by a diagnostic test or diagnosed by a health professional)?
 - iii) Are you in a period of self-isolation due to pre-existing medical condition such as diabetes, heart disease, respiratory conditions or a compromised immune system?
- c) If the athlete's response is 'NO', proceed with formal verbal notification and inform the athlete that the completion of the Doping Control Form (DCF) will take place once inside the testing location. Proceed to **Section 4** below.
- d) If the athlete's response is 'YES', inform the athlete that they must confirm this information in writing. Offer the athlete the option to wear gloves. Provide the athlete with the 'COVID-19 Athlete Questionnaire'. Provide the athlete with a new pen or ask them to use their own pen.
- e) Inform the athlete that they must complete this questionnaire truthfully and to the best of their knowledge and that if they purposefully provide any information which is found to be false, misleading, inaccurate or incorrect, they may be committing an anti-doping rule violation (e.g.,

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tampering or attempted tampering) and they may be subject to a sanction of up to four years. Confirm that the athlete understands this warning.

- f) Inform the athlete that this questionnaire will be sent to the ADO and that the ADO will review it and contact them to follow up and may request supporting information to validate the athlete's answers.
- g) Once the athlete has duly completed and signed the 'COVID-19 Athlete Questionnaire', provide a copy to the athlete.
- h) Inform the athlete that because they have declared that they (or someone present with them at this location/who resides with them) have COVID-19 or symptoms suggestive of COVID-19, and/or they are serving a period of quarantine or are self-isolating due to the pre-existing medical condition, sample collection will not proceed due to the risk of infection with COVID-19.
- i) If the athlete had chosen to wear gloves and/or mask, instruct the athlete to safely remove and dispose of them securely in your garbage bag.
- j) Thank the athlete and leave the testing location.
- k) Before entering your vehicle, and with the signed 'COVID-19 Athlete Questionnaire' safely stored, clean your hands, remove your disposable personal protection equipment (PPE) and dispose securely in your garbage bag.
- l) As usual practice, return any doping control documentation, including the complete 'COVID-19 Athlete Questionnaire', to your ADO as soon as possible.
- m) The record of the test attempt not proceeding should be logged into ADAMS as outlined below.

4. Proceeding with Sample Collection

- a) Enter the testing venue and discuss the best location for sample collection where contact with other individuals that may be present will be avoided or minimized.
- b) If you are in the athlete's home, ask the athlete if you can clean the surface where sample collection will take place using disinfectant wipes or disinfectant spray (or ask the athlete to clean the surface). If you are at a training location, inform the athlete that you will disinfect the surface. As an alternative, a clean and disposable tablecloth can be used. Clean your hands using the 'hand rub' technique before doing so.
- c) Before placing and organizing any sample collection equipment on the clean surface, again clean your hands with sanitizer using the hand rub technique. Using disinfectant wipes, clean the equipment to be used (i.e., wipe boxes, etc.). Display only the equipment necessary for that

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sample collection. All remaining equipment shall remain stored to avoid any potential contamination.

- d)** Ask the athlete to clean their hands either using hand sanitizer (i.e., the hand rub technique) or using soap (i.e., the hand wash technique). Guide the athlete through either technique.
- e)** Offer the athlete the option to wear gloves and a disposable face mask. If the athlete does not want to use gloves and/or a face mask, inform them that you will record this in the Comment section of the DCF.
- f)** If the SCP is using gloves, they should put them on as per proper safety instructions.
- g)** Review and complete the notification portion including asking the athlete to acknowledge the notification by signing. Provide the athlete with a new unused pen (or they can use their own). Use your own pen, do not share it with the athlete.
- h)** Inform the athlete that while all efforts will be made to maintain social/physical distancing, there will be times when this may not be possible. SCP should explain that by both wearing a face mask, it provides a barrier between any respiratory droplets and the people and surfaces around them. Remind the athlete that all of the additional measures in place are for health and safety (e.g., disinfecting and use of PPE).
- i)** When collecting a urine sample, continue with standard urine sample collection procedures, keeping the following instructions in mind:
 - i)** Where possible, continue to maintain social/physical distancing through sample collection.
 - ii)** When the athlete is ready to provide a sample, they must rinse their hands with water **only** (unless they have chosen to wear gloves) prior to providing a sample.
 - iii)** Once the athlete has provided their urine sample, instruct them to clean their hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer or remove their gloves prior to returning to the processing area.

5. Completing the Sample Collection Session

- a)** Before leaving, clean the surface used for sample collection with disinfectant wipes or spray.
- b)** If the athlete was wearing gloves and/or a disposable face mask, guide them through the proper removal techniques and ask them to place those items in your garbage bag. Instruct the athlete to clean their hands.
- c)** Ensure that all discarded items/waste are in your garbage bag (e.g., plastic from sample collection boxes, disinfectant wipes, gloves, face mask, pen used by the athlete).

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- d) Thank the athlete and, if you are at the athlete's home, ask the athlete to open the door for you (so that you are not touching their doorknob).
- e) Before entering your vehicle, follow the removal instructions to remove your gloves and disposable face mask and dispose safely in a garbage bag. Clean your hands using the hand rub technique.

6. Key Reminders for SCP

- a) SCP and athletes should clean their hands at the following stages:
 - i) When initiating the test session prior to athlete notification.
 - ii) After using the toilet.
 - iii) After blowing their nose, coughing, or sneezing.
 - iv) Before using and after removing face masks.
 - v) Before using and after removing gloves.
 - vi) At the conclusion of the sample collection process.
- b) If the SCP has chosen to wear gloves, they should be changed frequently based on the applicable points above (the Blood Collection Officer (BCO) should wear gloves during blood collection).
- c) To minimize hand washing/sanitizing/glove changing, SCP and athletes should:
 - i) Be reminded to avoid touching their face.
 - ii) Avoid shaking hands at any point during sample collection.
 - iii) Use separate pens when completing forms during sample collection.
 - iv) Refrain from touching all unnecessary surfaces and/or objects during sample collection.
- d) SCP should disinfect work surfaces using disinfectant wipes or spray at the following stages:
 - i) Prior to beginning the sample collection process.
 - ii) In between athletes' testing (if more than one athlete is tested).
 - iii) At the end of the sample collection session.

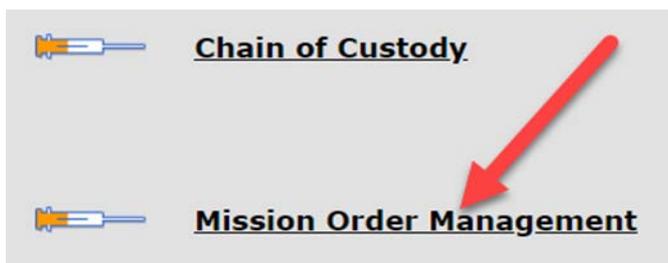
7. Recording the Test Attempt in an ADAMS Mission Order

Where the test attempt does not proceed due to the athlete's responses to the 'COVID-19 Athlete Questionnaire', the following steps are to be completed in ADAMS.

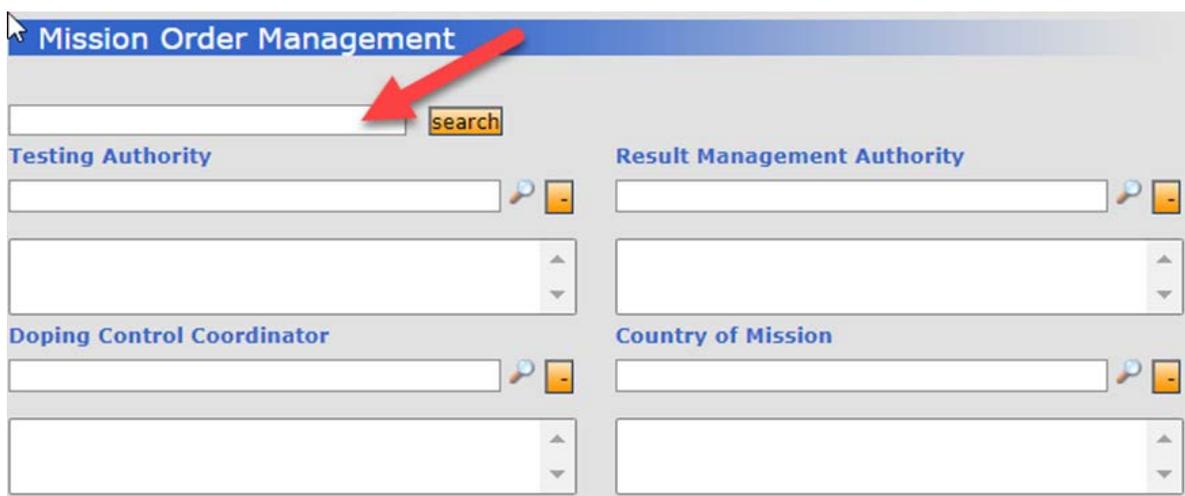
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- a) Login to ADAMS.
- b) Go to the Mission Order Management section.



- c) Search for the Mission Order (MO) to open (enter the MO number).



Mission Order Management

Search:

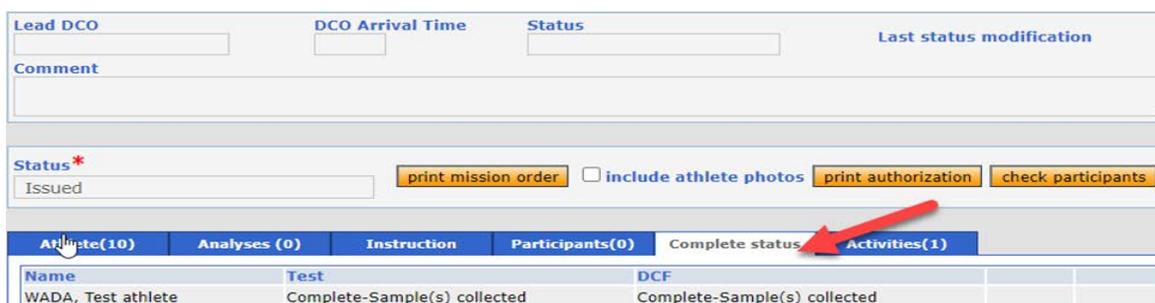
Testing Authority:

Result Management Authority:

Doping Control Coordinator:

Country of Mission:

- d) Open the tab 'Complete Status'.



Lead DCO: DCO Arrival Time: Status: Last status modification:

Comment:

Status*: include athlete photos

←

Name	Test	DCF
WADA, Test athlete	Complete-Sample(s) collected	Complete-Sample(s) collected

- e) Click on 'Planned' to open the relevant anti-doping test page.

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Status*
 include athlete photos

Athlete(10)	Analyses (0)	Instruction	Participants(0)	Complete status	Activities(1)
Name	Test			DCF	
wada, for tests	Planned				
wada, for tests	Planned				
WADA, Test athlete	Planned				

- f) Set the test status to 'Close-Samples not collected'.
- g) Add 'COVID-19' to the 'Name of competition / Training session'.
- h) Under 'Reason', add 'Answered YES to COVID-19 pre-test questions'.

Name of Competition / Training Session
 Major Game

Status*
 Sub-Status

Reason*

- i) When running a Sample Collection Report, COVID-19 will appear under the Competition Name.
- j) Once the DCO report and the COVID-19 Athlete Questionnaire is received by the ADO, then follow up with the athlete to validate the situation.
- k) Once the athlete can be tested again:
 - i) Edit the same original Mission Order (where the test status is set to 'Close-Samples not collected').
 - ii) Add the name of the athlete (for a second attempt).
 - iii) Enter an explanation regarding the second, follow up attempt in the Comments section of the Mission Order.

Lead DCO **DCO Arrival Time** **Status** **Last status modification**

Comment

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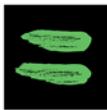
Annex B – Safety Measures Information Guide

ADOs should ensure that the following guidance is reviewed with and applied by Sample Collection Personnel (SCP). This information can be adapted based on any further national and/or health regulations specific to the relevant country. Please amend accordingly.

1. Hand Washing

Instruct SCP to:

- a) Clean their hands by rubbing them with an alcohol-based formulation, as the preferred mean for routine hygienic hand antisepsis, if hands are not visibly soiled. It is faster, more effective, and better tolerated by hands than washing with soap and water. This should take 20-30 seconds and is referred to as the **‘hand rub’ technique**.
- b) Wash their hands with soap and water when hands are visibly dirty or visibly soiled or after using the toilet. This should take 40-60 seconds and is referred to as the **‘hand wash’ technique**.



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HOW TO HANDRUB?

RUB HANDS FOR HAND HYGIENE! WASH HANDS WHEN VISIBLY SOILED

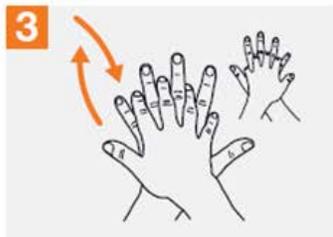
🕒 Duration of the entire procedure: 20-30 seconds



Apply a palmful of the product in a cupped hand, covering all surfaces;



Rub hands palm to palm;



Right palm over left dorsum with interlaced fingers and vice versa;



Palm to palm with fingers interlaced;



Backs of fingers to opposing palms with fingers interlocked;



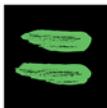
Rotational rubbing of left thumb clasped in right palm and vice versa;



Rotational rubbing, backwards and forwards with clasped fingers of right hand in left palm and vice versa;



Once dry, your hands are safe.



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HOW TO HANDWASH?

WASH HANDS WHEN VISIBLY SOILED! OTHERWISE, USE HANDRUB

Duration of the entire procedure: 40-60 seconds



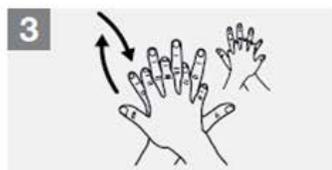
0 Wet hands with water;



1 Apply enough soap to cover all hand surfaces;



2 Rub hands palm to palm;



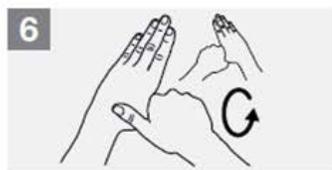
3 Right palm over left dorsum with interlaced fingers and vice versa;



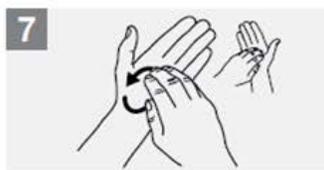
4 Palm to palm with fingers interlaced;



5 Backs of fingers to opposing palms with fingers interlocked;



6 Rotational rubbing of left thumb clasped in right palm and vice versa;



7 Rotational rubbing, backwards and forwards with clasped fingers of right hand in left palm and vice versa;



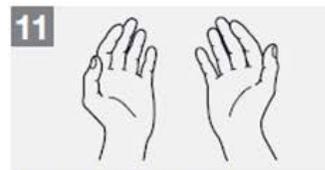
8 Rinse hands with water;



9 Dry hands thoroughly with a single use towel;



10 Use towel to turn off faucet;



11 Your hands are now safe.

Reference: World Health Organization, Hand Hygiene:

https://www.who.int/qpsc/5may/Hand_Hygiene_Why_How_and_When_Brochure.pdf

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2. Gloves

When wearing gloves, instruct SCP to:

- a)** Perform hand hygiene immediately before using and after removing gloves. It is important that hands be clean and dry before putting gloves on.
- b)** Change gloves and perform hand hygiene during sample collection if gloves become damaged or gloves become visibly soiled following a task.
- c)** Gloves should be put on immediately prior to engaging with the athlete and changed after touching any surfaces that may be contaminated.
- d)** Never wear the same pair of gloves for more than a single sample collection.
- e)** Carefully remove gloves to prevent hand contamination. Follow the instructions provided in the diagram below and ensure that there is no direct contact with the outside of the gloves.

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Additional Reminders for use of Gloves:

- **DON'T** remove one glove, and then pull the other glove off by the fingertips.
- **DON'T** reuse disposable gloves once they have been removed.
- **DO** change gloves when soiled or if torn.
- **DO** dispose of used gloves appropriately.
- **DO** cleanse hands before putting gloves on and after their removal and disposal.

Reference: <https://www.globus.co.uk/how-to-safely-remove-disposable-gloves>

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3. Face Masks

When using disposable face masks, SCP should be informed of the following:

- a)** Disposable face masks should only be used once.
- b)** Disposable face masks are effective only when used in combination with frequent hand-cleaning with alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water.
- c)** Disposable face masks must be removed along with other waste generated from the sample collection session (i.e., SCP must leave with all the sample collection session waste).
- d)** When using disposable face masks, follow these instructions:
 - i) Before putting on a mask, clean hands with alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water.
 - ii) Cover mouth and nose with mask and make sure there are no gaps between your face and the mask.
 - iii) Avoid touching the mask while using it; if you do, clean your hands with alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water.
 - iv) Replace the mask with a new one as soon as it is damp and do not re-use single-use masks.
 - v) To remove the mask: remove it from behind the ears or head (do not touch the front of mask); discard immediately in a closed bin; clean hands with alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water.

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HOW TO WEAR A NON-MEDICAL FABRIC MASK SAFELY

who.int/epi-win

Do's →

- Clean your hands before touching the mask
- Inspect the mask for damage or if dirty
- Adjust the mask to your face without leaving gaps on the sides
- Cover your mouth, nose, and chin
- Avoid touching the mask
- Clean your hands before removing the mask
- Remove the mask by the straps behind the ears or head
- Pull the mask away from your face
- Store the mask in a clean plastic, resealable bag if it is not dirty or wet and you plan to re-use it
- Remove the mask by the straps when taking it out of the bag
- Wash the mask in soap or detergent, preferably with hot water, at least once a day
- Clean your hands after removing the mask

Don'ts →

- Do not use a mask that looks damaged
- Do not wear a loose mask
- Do not wear the mask under the nose
- Do not remove the mask where there are people within 1 metre
- Do not use a mask that is difficult to breathe through
- Do not wear a dirty or wet mask
- Do not share your mask with others

A fabric mask can protect others around you. To protect yourself and prevent the spread of COVID-19, remember to keep at least 1 metre distance from others, clean your hands frequently and thoroughly, and avoid touching your face and mask.



Reference: [https://www.who.int/images/default-source/health-topics/coronavirus/clothing-masks-infographic---\(web\)-logo-who.png?sfvrsn=b15e3742_16](https://www.who.int/images/default-source/health-topics/coronavirus/clothing-masks-infographic---(web)-logo-who.png?sfvrsn=b15e3742_16)

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HOW TO WEAR A MEDICAL MASK SAFELY

who.int/epi-win

Do's →

- Wash your hands before touching the mask
- Inspect the mask for tears or holes
- Find the top side, where the metal piece or stiff edge is
- Ensure the colored-side faces outwards
- Place the metal piece or stiff edge over your nose
- Cover your mouth, nose, and chin
- Adjust the mask to your face without leaving gaps on the sides
- Avoid touching the mask
- Remove the mask from behind the ears or head
- Keep the mask away from you and surfaces while removing it
- Discard the mask immediately after use preferably into a closed bin
- Wash your hands after discarding the mask

Don'ts →

- Do not use a ripped or damp mask
- Do not wear the mask only over mouth or nose
- Do not wear a loose mask
- Do not touch the front of the mask
- Do not remove the mask to talk to someone or do other things that would require touching the mask
- Do not leave your used mask within the reach of others
- Do not re-use the mask

Remember that masks alone cannot protect you from COVID-19. Maintain at least 1 metre distance from others and wash your hands frequently and thoroughly, even while wearing a mask.

EPI-WIN World Health Organization

Reference: [https://www.who.int/images/default-source/health-topics/coronavirus/masks-infographic---final-\(a4---web---rgb\).png?sfvrsn=cb3153cf_11](https://www.who.int/images/default-source/health-topics/coronavirus/masks-infographic---final-(a4---web---rgb).png?sfvrsn=cb3153cf_11)

For more information on the use of Face Masks, please visit:
<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public/when-and-how-to-use-masks>

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Annex C – COVID-19 Athlete Questionnaire Template

The questions and text provided below are meant to serve as an example and to provide assistance to Anti-Doping Organizations (ADOs) in developing their own questionnaire. It is important to remember that ADOs should verify available guidance and/or consult with local health authorities when further developing these questions.

It is also important to verify with local data protection authorities when determining what COVID-19-related personal information they are authorized to collect. A list of data protection guidance on COVID-19 is available here: <https://iapp.org/resources/article/dpa-guidance-on-covid-19/>.

To ensure that athletes understand the importance of answering the question/s in a truthful and honest way, and to avoid being tested, the athlete should be advised verbally before they answer any questions that providing information that is false, misleading, inaccurate or incomplete could be considered as an anti-doping rule violation (e.g., tampering or attempted tampering), which could carry a sanction of up to four years.

In addition, the athletes should be advised that the completed questionnaire will be provided to the ADO that authorized the test for its review and that the ADO may contact the athlete to validate the athlete's answers. This may involve the ADO asking additional questions and requesting supporting information/documentation from the athlete.

This information should be part of the introduction text of the questionnaire and included again immediately before the athlete signs the questionnaire.

The questions developed could be pre-written on a Supplementary Report Form (SRF) or on an equivalent/new form ensuring that a copy can be provided to the athlete or to be developed on a mobile application. Please review and adapt this document as necessary.

1. Pre-Notification Athlete Questions

Since you answered 'YES' to one or more of the following pre-notification questions:

- a)** Are you, or anyone currently present with you at this location or who resides with you, experiencing any symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 (i.e., sore throat, cough, fever, loss of smell and taste)?
- b)** Do you or anyone currently present with you at this location or who resides with you have COVID-19 (confirmed by a diagnostic test or diagnosed by a health professional)?
- c)** Are you in a period of quarantine/self-isolation due to the above situations or self-isolation due

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to a pre-existing medical condition such as diabetes, heart disease, respiratory conditions or a compromised immune system?

2. Additional Athlete Questions

Please answer the following questions truthfully and to the best of your ability. Please specify what applies to your current situation:

- a)** I have COVID-19 (confirmed by a diagnostic test or diagnosed by a health professional).
- b)** I have symptoms suggestive of COVID-19.
 - i) Please specify your symptoms.
- c)** I live with someone that has COVID-19 (confirmed by a diagnostic test or diagnosed by a health professional).
- d)** I live with someone that has symptoms suggestive of COVID-19.
 - i) Please specify their symptoms.
- e)** I am in quarantine/self-isolating due the above reasons as selected or due to a pre-medical condition such as diabetes, heart disease, respiratory conditions or compromised immune system.
 - i) Please specify the medical condition.
- f)** If you are quarantining, on what date did it begin?
- g)** How long will the quarantine be for?
 - i) Please give the expected date of when the quarantine period will end.
 - ii) If the quarantine extends beyond the end date provided, you should contact your ADO to explain the reasons.
- h)** If your self-isolation is due to a pre-existing medical condition, have you trained at a training facility or been to locations outside of your house where other persons were present in the last seven days?

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3. Athlete Information

Please be informed that this questionnaire will be sent to *[insert ADO Name]* and that *[insert ADO Name]* will review it and may contact you to confirm the information provided. *[insert ADO Name]* may also ask additional questions or require further documentation. Please also be aware that providing information that is false, misleading, inaccurate or incomplete could be considered as an anti-doping rule violation (e.g., tampering or attempted tampering), which could carry a sanction of up to four years.

Athlete name: _____ **Athlete signature:** _____

Athlete phone number: _____ **Athlete email:** _____

Date: _____

Please contact us at: *[Insert ADO contact details]*