



Northwest Softball's top priority is the safety and well-being of its players, coaches, families, and fans. We are dedicated to minimizing the risk to our community from the COVID-19 pandemic through strict protocols, frequent and transparent communication, and adherence to the recommendations of local, state, and national health authorities. While we cannot eliminate all risks of exposure, Northwest Softball pledges to do everything possible so you and your players can enjoy a safe and fun return to the field.

COVID-19 Review

COVID-19 is a respiratory illness that has been declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization. COVID-19 is extremely contagious and is believed to spread mainly from respiratory droplets released into the air as well as person-to-person contact. Please review [this Austin Public Health information sheet](#) for more information on symptoms and prevention.

Our fields are leased from the Austin Parks and Recreation Department, so immediate guidance will come from the [City of Austin](#) and [Travis County](#) health authorities. Click on the links for more information. We will be monitoring COVID and vaccinations rates using the [City of Austin Dashboard](#), which tracks data in real time and provides insight into the risk level for our areas. We are also following guidelines from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) and [Texas Department of State Health Services](#) provided to youth sports operators on safely reopening.

As we learn more about COVID-19, we remain hopeful that outdoor sports continue to prove a lower-risk activity, especially for children. We are encouraged by [reports like this](#) from the University of Wisconsin, and will continue to monitor the latest research.

Yet despite all precautions, Northwest Softball cannot guarantee that you, your child, or close contacts will not become infected with COVID-19. Participation could increase risk of contraction, to yourselves and those you encounter. Please review the above resources when considering participation in the spring 2021 season.

Spring 2021 Protocols

Safety Protocols

If you choose to participate, note that all Northwest Softball board members, coaches, players, and parents must review and agree to sign the 2021 Waiver and Release. Safety protocols mandated for the spring 2021 season include:

- Safety training for board and coaches
- Mandatory pre-screen and check-in via Team Sideline app
- Required masks for coaches and all fans over the age of 5
- Required masks for players entering and exiting the field, and while in the dugout
- Hand sanitizer when entering and leaving dugout
- [Cleaning and disinfection](#) of dugouts, equipment between practices and games
- Recommended limit of ONE adult per player per practice - social distancing required
- Recommended limit of TWO adults per player per game - social distancing required

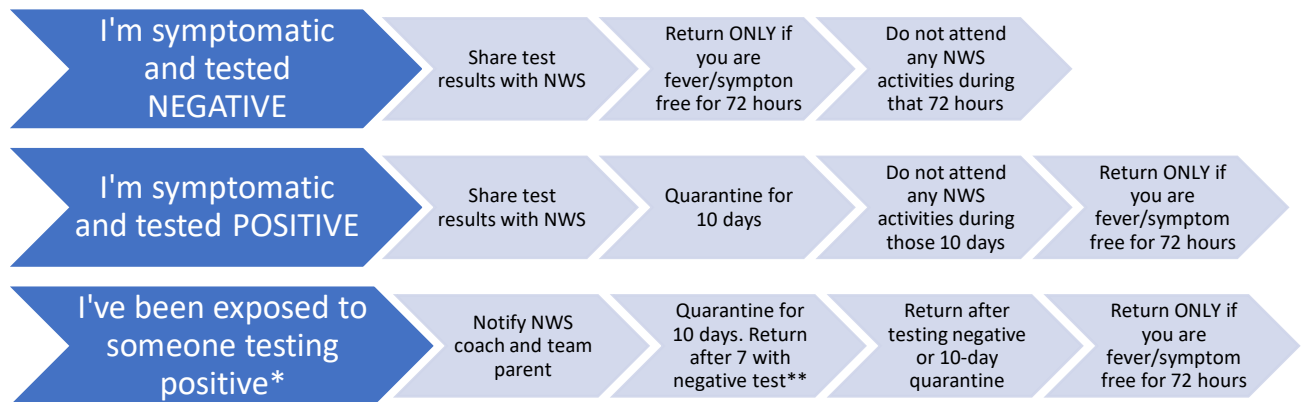
Health Protocols

Risk prevention is dependent on NWS participants utilizing self-screening and monitoring of COVID symptoms and risk. The symptoms listed below should be considered “red flags” for possible COVID-19 infection. If a player or coach has ANY of the following symptoms, they should NOT attend any NWS activities. If, during the course of an NWS activity any of the following symptoms appear, the participant must immediately notify an NWS coach or official:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Fever of 99.6 or greater | <input type="radio"/> Repeated shaking with chills |
| <input type="radio"/> Cough | <input type="radio"/> Muscle or body aches |
| <input type="radio"/> Shortness of breath | <input type="radio"/> Headache |
| <input type="radio"/> Chills | <input type="radio"/> Loss of taste or smell |
| <input type="radio"/> Sore throat | <input type="radio"/> Congestion |
| <input type="radio"/> Diarrhea | <input type="radio"/> Nausea or vomiting |

While we understand the above symptoms may be present in a multitude of illnesses, out of the utmost caution it is required that participants remain absent from activities while symptomatic. Should you experience symptoms, it is recommended that you contact your healthcare provider for guidance on COVID testing and/or treatment.

Northwest Softball will adhere to the following procedures when informed of a positive COVID-19 test or exposure. All scenarios will include immediate notification of the participant's team and anyone present at the facility. If participant is determined to have been positive while attending an NWS activity, all who have been in close contact (within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes) will not be permitted to participate for 10 days without a test. Participants may return after 7 days with a negative test, which can be administered starting on the 5th day following close contact.



* Close contact of positive case means within 6 feet of proximity for at least 15 minutes.

** Test can be administered after the 5th day following exposure.

We appreciate that this is a difficult time, but we hope a structured return to the field can provide our Northwest Softball community a safe and positive experience - something we all need right now. Please send any questions, concerns, or comments to info@nwsoftball.org. We look forward to seeing you all soon!

Northwest Softball Executive Board

- Mindy Arbaugh, President
- Kate Fuller, 1st Vice President
- Tracy Balboa, 2nd Vice President
- Christy Bell, Treasurer
- Aline Zeringue, Secretary