



Spring 2021 Season COVID-19 Testing, Screening and Mitigation Protocols for Game Officials
Updated 2/22/2021

Testing / Screening:

1. Officials' Testing: Officials will be provided a self-administered at-home PCR test by MAKOMedical (MAKO), which has partnered with the NEC (Conference). MAKO will provide testing kits and shipping materials to each official before the start of the season. The tests will be self-administered and returned to the lab as instructed (within three days of the competition date). Appendix A provides specific instructions relative to the noted testing protocols.
2. Vaccination: If you have received a COVID-19 vaccine, you will still need to go through the testing protocol.
3. Screening: Officials are required to self-monitor daily throughout the season. The Daily Symptom Screening Form (Appendix B) is provided as a guideline and does not need to be turned in to the Supervisor of Officials. Officials are required to immediately contact the Supervisor of Officials if they start to show COVID-19 symptoms.
4. Positive Test: Officials will be notified immediately of a positive test result by the Conference and removed from all game assignments until the official completes the isolation period. The following processes will be followed to monitor an official's progress to return to competition following the onset of symptoms or a positive test result (whichever comes first):
 - a. An official's time in isolation shall be compliant with CDC guidelines at the time of the onset of symptoms/positive result. Current CDC guidelines are as follows:
 - i. Ten (10) days in isolation from the onset of symptoms/positive test; and
 - ii. At least one day (24 hours) has passed since recovery defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and improvement of respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath).
 - b. Upon the successful completion of isolation and recovery, the official must submit a completed Certification of Fitness Form signed by an examining physician to be eligible to be assigned a game and sent to the assignor (Appendix C).
 - c. Game officials shall be exempt from the Conference weekly testing for 90 days from the date of the positive test unless the official exhibits any symptom consistent with COVID-19 as part of the Conference's daily symptom screening. Should such official at any time during the 90 days exhibit any COVID-19 symptom, the official shall seek regular medical attention and must provide medical clearance prior to being assigned to a game. Once the 90-day period has expired then the official would rejoin the weekly testing program.
5. Quarantine Requirements: Official will be required to quarantine and monitor for symptoms for fourteen (14) days following exposure to a person who has tested positive for COVID-19, including, without limitation, other officials, game participants and other close contacts of official, in each case in accordance with CDC guidelines, applicable contact tracing rules and regulations and Conference guidance for Tier 1 personnel. Officials are not be permitted to "test out" of quarantine earlier than fourteen (14) days.

Game Operations:

1. Officials are required to wear a face covering. They may pull down the mask periodically on the field away from other people to take unimpeded breaths. **NOTE: Gaiters are not permitted at Central Connecticut, Fairleigh Dickinson and Wagner College.**
2. An official may use a traditional whistle and electronic whistle in combination together to minimize the time that each official will lower the mask (e.g., ready for play by the Referee).
3. Safe-whistle mechanics such as not blowing traditional whistles directly at any coach, player or other individual and minimizing the times officials blow a traditional whistle is imperative.
4. If an overnight stay is necessary, it is required that officials have separate hotel rooms.
5. Officials shall not travel to games in the same vehicle.
6. It is recommended that officials conduct the pregame officials' meeting "virtually" before the competition.
7. All officials shall follow Conference Testing/Screening Protocols.



2021 Spring Season – Officials' COVID-19 Testing Protocols

Officials will be tested one (1) time prior to each assignment/series for the duration of the 2021 spring season. PCR tests will be the standard utilized. The test must be administered as outlined below for each sport, within three days of the competition date. **Do not take tests unless you have a NEC assignment within three days.**

- **Baseball:** Officials must test once on the Tuesday morning prior to the weekend series (Friday-Sun). If working a Tuesday contest, officials must test once on Saturday. If working a Wednesday contest, officials must test once on Monday (most FedEx shipping centers do not ship on Sundays). If you have two NEC assignments in a week (i.e. midweek and weekend series) you will test twice that week. For any other midweek games for which you are unsure, please contact Benjamin Shove.
- **Football:** Officials must test Thursday morning prior to the Sunday game. For any other game days please contact Benjamin Shove.
- **Softball:** Officials must test once on Wednesday morning prior to the weekend series for each four-game series (Saturday and Sunday). If working a Tuesday contest, officials must test once on Saturday. If working a Wednesday contest, officials must test once on Monday (most FedEx shipping centers do not ship on Sundays). If you have two NEC assignments in a week (i.e. midweek and weekend series) you will test twice that week. For any other midweek games for which you are unsure, please contact Caitlin Hughes.

Test Kit Distribution:

MAKO will mail test kits, return packaging and shipping labels to each official before the start of the season. The official starts to submit tests the week of the first assigned NEC contest. Note that one test kit contains one test tube.

Upon receipt of test kits, each official must review the information listed on each test tube to confirm accuracy (**name, date of birth and test collection date, NEC account number - 16444**). If the information listed on the test tube is incorrect, carefully strike through the incorrect information and write the information with a fine tip Sharpie.

If there is not enough space on the label, the information can be written on the clear part of the test tube or on a 3x5 card that is then placed in the bag. Please notify the Conference office immediately if this occurs.

Instructional materials on how to self-administer the test are linked below:

- <https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/review?uri=urn%3Aaaid%3Ascds%3AUS%3A3854ca07-f653-471f-8f55-0b3d46405f5c&pageNum=1#pageNum=1>

All available officials should plan to attend the Zoom webinar with Conference representatives and MAKO on Tuesday, February 23 at 7pm.

Schedule for Testing:

Officials will self-administer one (1) test kit within three days of the competition date (as illustrated above for each sport).

Instructions for Shipping:

Please follow the instructions on the back of the FedEx Overpack that you received to properly package your test kit. **Using a black Sharpie pen, write “CHAD” or a ★ (star) on the front and back of the outermost packing in large font.** It is highly recommended to download the FedEx App on your smartphone. Drop at a designated **Dangerous Goods FedEx Ship Center**. To find the location closest to your location, visit <http://www.fedex.com/> and click through the following: Locations > Enter City or Zip> More > Dangerous goods shipping, then search to find a center closest to you.

If you come across any issues while at the FedEx location in which you need to reprint your shipping label, need additional packaging, etc. please use **FedEx Account Number: 591941704**.

Officials make sure your package is dropped no later than 10 A.M. EASTERN TIME for FedEx Express for your selected location. Get a receipt when possible.

Result Reporting and Notification:

Officials' tests will be processed upon arrival at the MAKO testing facility. The lab intends to have all results completed no later than 12-18 hours upon arrival to MAKO. Any initial positive result is always retested to ensure accuracy. All results will be reported to the Conference Office, and Conference staff will contact the supervisor with any positive test result. If an official does not hear from the assignor, you have tested negative. Upon receipt of a positive test, officials will be removed from all game assignments until the official completes the isolation period.

Testing Positive:

The processes listed below will be followed to monitor an official's progress to return to competition following a positive test result:

1. An official's time in isolation shall be compliant with CDC guidelines at the time of the positive result. Current CDC guidelines are as follows: 10-day isolation from the onset of symptoms/positive test.

Game officials shall be exempt from the weekly asymptomatic surveillance testing for 90 days (subject to conference restrictions) from the date of the positive test unless the official exhibits any symptoms consistent with COVID-19. If at any time during the 90-day period, an official exhibits any COVID-19 symptom, the official shall seek regular medical attention with their local provider and provide medical clearance to return to officiate. Any official who has tested positive within the past 90 days must present documentation to the conference office indicating it is medically safe to resume officiating.



Screening Questions

1. In the past 72 hours, have you experienced any of the following symptoms (see below) consistent with COVID-19?

CDC Guidelines for SIGNS and SYMPTOMS:

- a. Fever
 - b. Cough
 - c. Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - d. Chills
 - e. Muscle pain
 - f. Headache
 - g. Sore throat
 - h. Fatigue
 - i. New loss of taste or smell
 - j. Nausea
 - k. Vomiting
 - l. Diarrhea
2. Do you have reason to believe that you, or anyone with whom you've had close contact, may have been exposed to COVID-19 in the past 14 days?

**Re-Certification of Fitness for Officials**

Name of Official: _____

Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____

I, the undersigned Examining Physician, do hereby certify that I examined _____ on _____, 2021. Based on that examination, I hereby certify that he/she is no longer presenting symptoms of COVID-19, is in good physical health, and is free from any physical limitations or restrictions which would interfere with and/or limit his/her ability to perform the duties of a college sports official, having been informed that performing such duties requires considerable physical exertion over several hours.

EXAMINING PHYSICIAN:

Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

Street Address /Apt./Unit #: _____

City / State / Zip Code: _____

Date: _____