

Special Olympics Illinois: Coronavirus Guidelines and Direction

With growing concerns over the Coronavirus in the United States, it is important for Special Olympics Illinois to communicate event protocols for the immediate future.

Any cancellations to Regional and State competitions as well as fundraising events will be addressed on a case by case basis and correspondence will be sent separately regarding changes to any events. For any events that will remain scheduled as planned, we request to our agency leaders, coaches, volunteers, staff, families, etc. to not only protect yourselves, but the athletes as well. Below, we have spelled out some guidelines for how to do so. Special Olympics Illinois will be following these guidelines by stepping up the availability and usage of disinfecting products such as antiseptic wipes and hand sanitizer.

Be advised that Special Olympics Illinois is in constant communication with the Illinois Department of Public Health, our counterparts throughout the country as well as seeking guidance from Special Olympics International, and we are prepared to change direction quickly if news of the virus continues to evolve that would cause us to re-evaluate.

Guidelines:

- Do not allow any athletes or anyone with compromised immune systems or who are more susceptible to getting sick to attend any Special Olympics Illinois event (sports competition or fundraiser)
- If any athlete or anyone that will be attending an event is showing ANY signs of illness, they should not train or compete, nor should they be around other athletes or any individual.

CDC GUIDELINES & OTHER RESOURCES

For the most informed and accurate sources of the virus, we recommend these resources that you should be able to trust:

- Illinois Department of Public Health , click [here](#)
- Center for Disease Control (CDC), click [here](#)
- World Health Organization, click [here](#)
- National Institute of Health, click [here](#)

We recommend following the CDC guidelines for prevention and below is from their website:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- Stay home if you feel unwell. If you have a fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical attention and call in advance. Follow directions of your local health authority.

- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue or bent elbow, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Follow CDC's recommendations for using a facemask:
 - CDC does not recommend that people who are well, wear a facemask to protect themselves for respiratory diseases, including the Coronavirus (COVID-19).
 - Facemasks should be used by people who show symptoms of COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of the disease to others. These people should not attend Special Olympics Illinois events.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing.
 - If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.
- Maintain at least 3 feet distance between yourself and anyone who is coughing or sneezing

Local Program Agencies

You are a vital and important part to the Special Olympics Illinois athlete's preparation before they even get to a competition or other event. So, we ask that you are extremely aware of making good choices for them that will also have an effect on others that they will come in contact. We also ask that you require any people with ANY symptoms to stay home.

Please discuss with your local Special Olympics Illinois Region Directors on your plans for practices or gatherings, should you consider postponing them in the coming weeks. Also, keep us informed on any confirmed cases of the Coronavirus at your agency.

At Special Olympics Illinois, the athletes well-being and quality experience is our highest priority and we will keep monitoring this situation closely and communicate to you very quickly should anything change.

Best Regards,



Dave Breen
President & CEO
Special Olympics Illinois