



CONFIDENTIAL

Note: Specific scenarios may arise that these protocols do not address. In these circumstances, NWSL will consult with medical professionals to develop the most appropriate plan. NWSL reserves the right to update these protocols as appropriate.

NWSL Standards for Cleaning, Disinfection, and Sanitization for Venues, Training Facilities, Team Travel (Air/Ground) and Lodging

INTRODUCTION

The safety and health of our players, coaches, team staff, officials, and venue staff are our main priority. The intent of this document is to provide guidance in terms of cleaning, disinfection, and sanitization standards for the recommencement of training and matches. These best practices are derived from guidance issued by The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), World Health Organization (WHO), and U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

DEFINITIONS

Air Purifier or Air Cleaner: A device which removes contaminants from the air in a room to improve indoor air quality. A portable electrical device intended to remove, inactivate, or destroy potentially harmful particles from the circulating air.

Cleaning: Refers to the removal of pathogenic viruses, bacteria, dirt, and impurities from surfaces. Cleaning does not kill pathogenic organisms, but by removing them, it lowers their numbers and the risk of spreading infection.

Contact Surfaces: Refers to porous and non-porous material surfaces where direct human contact may be made.

Disinfecting: Refers to using chemicals to kill viruses on surfaces. This process does not necessarily clean dirty surfaces or remove viruses, but by killing pathogenic organisms on a surface after cleaning, it can further lower the risk of spreading infection.

General Population: All individuals without reference to any specific characteristics.

High Contact: Refers to those surfaces where human contact by hand, face, arm, or aerosolized mucus or saliva may contact. These include, but are not limited to, handles, doorknobs, elevator buttons, handrails, keypads, computer mouse, telephone, headsets, thermostats, light switches, desktops, counters, and arms rests.

Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC): The system is used to provide heating and cooling services to buildings. It refers to the different systems, machines and technologies used in indoor settings such as homes, offices and hallways, and transportation systems that need environmental regulation to improve comfort.

Key Assets: Locations, facilities, and personnel that are of critical value to the business and its continuity.

Low Contact: Refers to all other material surfaces where human contact may not exist, however, may be proximal to infected or potentially infected persons. These include, but are not limited to, flooring, walls, stairs, and light fixtures.

Personal Protection Equipment (PPE): Equipment worn to minimize exposure to hazards that may cause serious injuries or illnesses.

Sanitizing: Refers to a chemical process that lessens and even kills germs on surfaces to make them safe for contact. It reduces the number of bacteria to safe levels (set by public health standards) to decrease the risk of infection; it may not kill all viruses.



CONFIDENTIAL

Note: Specific scenarios may arise that these protocols do not address. In these circumstances, NWSL will consult with medical professionals to develop the most appropriate plan. NWSL reserves the right to update these protocols as appropriate.

GENERAL PRACTICES FOR TRAINING IN HOME MARKETS AND COMPETITION

Protecting teams, support and technical staff, officials, and venue staff will depend on emphasizing basic infection prevention measures. As appropriate, all venues should implement good hygiene and infection control practices, including:

- Educate staff and all individuals using the venue to recognize the symptoms of COVID-19.
- Educate staff and all individuals using the venue how to properly wear and dispose of masks and other PPE equipment.
- Encourage all staff and individuals to stay home if sick and to contact their health care provider.
- Provide COVID-19 prevention supplies to staff and participants such as hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol, tissues, trash baskets, disposable masks, and cleaners and disinfectants.
- Clean frequently touched surfaces and objects with detergent and water prior to disinfection, especially surfaces that are visibly dirty.
- Post signage throughout the facilities (training and venue) regarding educational messages for COVID-19 prevention strategies; consider the use of multilingual signage where appropriate.
- Identify and address potential language, cultural, and disability barriers associated with communicating COVID-19 information to event staff and participants.
- Train all staff on proper hand and respiratory hygiene and encourage respiratory etiquette, including covering coughs and sneezes.
- Cleaning staff should clean and disinfect all areas such as offices, bathrooms, common areas, elevators, shared electronic equipment like tablets, touch screens, keyboards, remote controls, and ATM machines, focusing especially on frequently touched surfaces.
- Wash items as appropriate in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. If possible, launder items using the warmest appropriate water setting for the items and dry items completely. Dirty laundry that has been in contact with an ill person can be washed with other people's items. Be sure to wear appropriate PPE when handling items if the clothing is from a player who may be ill. To minimize the possibility of dispersing virus through the air, do not shake dirty laundry.
- Clean and disinfect hampers or other carts for transporting laundry according to guidance above for hard or soft surfaces.
- Designate a space for staff and participants who may become sick and cannot leave the event immediately; work with partners, such as local hospitals, to create a plan for treating staff and participants who do not live nearby; include a plan for separating and caring for vulnerable populations.
- Cleaning staff should wear disposable gloves and masks for all tasks in the cleaning process, including handling trash. If gowns are not available, coveralls, aprons or work uniforms can be worn during cleaning and disinfecting. Reusable (washable) clothing should be laundered afterwards. Clean hands after handling dirty laundry.
- Promote frequent and thorough hand washing by providing workers, customers, and worksite visitors with a place to wash their hands. If soap and running water are not immediately available, provide alcohol-based hand rubs containing at least 60% alcohol.
- If possible, keep doors open within the facility to minimize the use of door handles or doorknobs when moving from one location to another.
- Provide sufficient tissues and trash bins.
- Discourage workers from using other workers' phones, desks, offices, or other work tools and equipment, when possible.
- Maintain regular housekeeping practices, including routine cleaning and disinfecting of surfaces, equipment, and other elements of the work environment.
- When choosing cleaning chemicals, employers should consult information on Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-approved disinfectant labels with claims against emerging viral pathogens.
- Products with EPA-approved emerging viral pathogens claims are expected to be effective against SARS-CoV-2 based on data for harder to kill viruses. **Follow the manufacturer's instructions for use of all cleaning and disinfection products.**



CONFIDENTIAL

Note: Specific scenarios may arise that these protocols do not address. In these circumstances, NWSL will consult with medical professionals to develop the most appropriate plan. NWSL reserves the right to update these protocols as appropriate.

VENUE GUIDANCE

Training Facilities: Players and staff should arrive at the training facilities dressed and prepared to train. The intent is to minimize the use of any inside facilities at the training facilities. Parking in lots should be spaced to allow for social distancing.

Match Venues: These minimum standards are intended for match venues that will be used during the continuation of the 2020 NWSL season.

For **non-matchday** venue operations the following guidance should be enacted as the baseline posture:

- Make all necessary adjustments to have as few staff working as feasible, minimizing the number of employees in the venue.
- Designate specific entry points for employees to maximize social distancing. This includes opening various entry points for employees, based on department.
- Adjust the delivery policy to ensure social distancing protocols are met according to the latest local guidelines or requirements.
- Determine and implement an appropriate schedule for cleaning and methods of decontamination to include increasing cleaning frequency for high trafficked areas. The schedule must cover pre-event, during event, and post-event.
- Implement cleaning procedures using appropriate EPA approved products.
- Train and inform employees on recognizing COVID-19 symptoms and designate a space that can be used to isolate staff or participants who become ill.
- Increase signage in appropriate locations throughout the facility (e.g., access points, locker room, workout, training, and treatment spaces) outlining advisable precautions (e.g., best practices for hand and respiratory hygiene).
- Have sufficient masks and other Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) for all staff. It is recommended to wear face coverings at a minimum. Type of PPE will depend on duties of staff and exposure to public and/or areas of high contamination.

A. Laundry

- Dirty laundry should be placed into a specified bin(s) at a central location.
- Dirty laundry should be collected from the laundry bin.
- If possible, do not shake dirty laundry. This will minimize the possibility of dispersing the virus through the air if present.
- Launder items as appropriate in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. If possible, launder items using the warmest appropriate water setting for the items and dry items completely. Dirty laundry from an infected person(s) can be washed with non-infected items.

B. Training/Medical Rooms

- After every use, clean and disinfect surfaces in the training room (e.g. medical tables, stools, chairs, medical equipment, trash cans, recycle bins).
- All floors are to be swept and mopped with a disinfectant detergent solution.
- All carpets shall be vacuumed, extracted if needed and spot cleaned in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications.
- All trash and medical receptacles shall be emptied, wiped out with a disinfectant solution, trash removed, and the can liner replaced.

C. Weight Rooms

- After every use, clean and disinfect surfaces in the weight room (e.g. floor mats, cardio equipment, free weights, multi-use racks, mirrors, water fountains, trash cans, recycle bins).
- All floors are to be swept and mopped with a disinfectant detergent solution.
- All carpets shall be vacuumed, extracted if needed and spot cleaned in accordance with the manufacturer's Specifications.



CONFIDENTIAL

Note: Specific scenarios may arise that these protocols do not address. In these circumstances, NWSL will consult with medical professionals to develop the most appropriate plan. NWSL reserves the right to update these protocols as appropriate.

- All trash and medical receptacles shall be emptied, wiped out with a disinfectant solution, trash removed, and the can liner replaced.
- Replace soap, single-use towels, single-use dispensers, disposable drinking cups, tissue & alcohol-based wipe boxes, and any other items that have been used/touched by the team or the officials.

D. Field

- Clean and disinfect all hard surfaces on the playing field (e.g., benches, chairs, bench shields, Fourth Official's area, and VAR, and goal posts).

Matchday venue operations will build upon the baseline processes and preparations to ensure the safest environment possible. The following guidance will apply to ensure proper cleanliness for the teams and officials. These cleanings need to take place prior to every use by a team or the officials.

A. Locker Rooms/Critical Area

- Prior to every use, clean and disinfect all high-touch surfaces in common areas (e.g., lockers, chairs, tables, doorknobs, light switches, phones, television screens, remote controls, clothes hangers, handles, desks, trash cans, recycle bins, toilets, sinks, water fountains, showers).
- All floors are to be swept and mopped with a disinfectant detergent solution.
- All carpets shall be vacuumed, extracted if needed and spot cleaned in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications.
- All toilet tissues, facial tissues, hand towels, soap, and hand sanitizer will be replenished as needed.
- All trash receptacles shall be emptied, wiped out with a disinfectant solution, trash removed, and the can liner replaced.
- Replace soap, single-use towels, single-use dispensers, disposable drinking cups, tissue & alcohol-based wipe boxes, and any other items that have been used/touched by the team or the officials.

B. Workspaces for Staff

- All floors are to be swept and mopped with a disinfectant detergent solution.
- All carpets shall be vacuumed, extracted if needed and spot cleaned in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications.
- All toilet tissues, facial tissues, hand towels, soap, and hand sanitizer will be replenished as needed.
- All trash receptacles shall be emptied, wiped out with a disinfectant solution, trash removed, and the can liner replaced.
- Replace soap, single-use towels, single-use dispensers, disposable drinking cups, tissue & alcohol-based wipe boxes, and any other items that have been used/touched by the team or the officials.
- Provide COVID-19 prevention supplies to event staff and participants such as hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol, tissues, trash baskets, disposable facemasks, and cleaners and disinfectants.
- Clean frequently touched surfaces and objects with detergent and water prior to disinfection, especially surfaces that are visibly dirty.
- Practice routine cleaning of frequently touched surfaces.

C. Field

- Prior to every use, clean and disinfect all hard surfaces on the playing field (e.g., benches, chairs, bench shields, goal beams, corner flag poles).
- Limit the number of people that walk on and around the field to limit any possible exposure for the players and officials (e.g., groundskeepers, operations personnel).
- Collect all used equipment (e.g., soccer balls, soccer dummies, cones, towels) in one central location after the field is cleared of all participants to be cleaned and sanitized for reuse.
- Setup the appropriate number of hand towels, water bottles, and other training items to ensure that each Player and official has their own equipment and must avoid sharing any items.



CONFIDENTIAL

Note: Specific scenarios may arise that these protocols do not address. In these circumstances, NWSL will consult with medical professionals to develop the most appropriate plan. NWSL reserves the right to update these protocols as appropriate.

D. **ENTRY POINTS** (Guidance for venue/club operations and security on matchday.)

- Teams, staff and officials - all should arrive wearing face coverings or facemasks.
- **Staff Entry Point(s)** - The venue shall designate specific entry points for venue staff, personnel from broadcast, media, league staff, third party vendors, and any other staff on a matchday. If necessary, this includes opening various entry points for employees, based on department.
 - All individuals that enter the venue will need to complete the approved Screening Assessment which includes a questionnaire as well as a temperature assessment. The questionnaire asks about any:
 - Current and recent COVID-19 symptoms,
 - Travel within the last 14 days,
 - Known exposure to anyone COVID-19 (+) or presumed COVID-19 (+), and
 - Any concern that may have been exposed to the virus.
 - Or any pending COVID test status; if someone has a pending COVID test they should not access the facilities
 - A PPE distribution point can be positioned either before or after the search and screening security process.
- **Team/Officiating Crew Entry Point** - Establish an entry point where players, coaching staff, team medical staff, and officials will initially arrive.
 - Each entry point must be confirmed and communicated to the appropriate stakeholders prior to any player and/or official arrival to the venue.
 - The route to the locker room needs to be as direct as possible and the path should be clear of any personnel without a working function to maintain appropriate physical distances and limit interaction.
 - Where possible doors should be kept open to minimize the use of door handles or knobs.

Teams/Officials will be tested prior to the match as part of an ongoing testing protocol. Upon arrival, the teams and officials will immediately make their way to the designated locker room. Anyone who arrives on their own outside of the organized ground transportation will be required to a temperature check at the venue prior to entry (player, official, technical or support staff, or medical staff).

As part of the hygiene protocols, team members and officials should utilize a designated sanitizing area or station and follow the proper hand-washing protocols by washing their hands with soap and water for at least twenty (20) seconds. The groups will wipe down their equipment with alcohol-based hand wipes and disinfect their equipment as necessary.

For all arrivals, efforts shall be made to minimize the number of common surfaces to touch (e.g., doors need to remain open with a stopper or another item, auto doors need to be set to open, and door closers need to be removed). In the event that a door is not able to be kept open, venue personnel are encouraged to bump doors open with a hip or to use a foot on a kick plate.

TEAM MOVEMENTS, TRAVEL, AND OPERATIONS

Guidance to be used by club administrators and travel support for team movements.

General Practices

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least twenty (20) seconds -- if soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based (60%) sanitizer.
- Avoid contact (high fiving/fist bumps) and selfies with fans or strangers.
- Avoid taking objects from fans to sign autographs (pens, jerseys, etc.)
- Wash or sanitize your hands before eating.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.



CONFIDENTIAL

Note: Specific scenarios may arise that these protocols do not address. In these circumstances, NWSL will consult with medical professionals to develop the most appropriate plan. NWSL reserves the right to update these protocols as appropriate.

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay up to date on vaccinations, including the flu vaccine.
- Call, text, or tell the team doctor or trainer immediately if you are feeling sick or have had close contact with someone who becomes sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

A. Buses

Teams are responsible for cleaning and disinfecting their buses, or ensuring this is done by the providing company. At a minimum, all commonly touched surfaces on the buses should be cleaned and disinfecting before and after each use. Doors and windows should remain open during the cleaning. Individuals who are conducting the cleaning should wear disposable gloves compatible with the products being used as well as any other PPE required. All cleaning products will used following the manufacturer's guidance. In addition, drivers should make appropriate use of PPE, including wearing masks, as well as undergoing daily symptom checks.

The following hard, non-porous surfaces should be cleaned before and after each use:

- Interior surfaces of entry door where hands may make contact
 - Seat armrests and recliner handles, windowsills, and seat belts/buckles
 - Head rests
 - Driver area including driver controls, and audio/visual equipment
- **Flights**
 - **Aircraft**
 - Hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol available for use.
 - Clean and disinfect cloth surfaces such as cloth seats, cloth seat belts, etc., as well as possible on commercial flights and charters.
 - Clean and disinfect hard surfaces including leather or vinyl seats, armrests, plastic and metal parts of the seats and seatbacks, tray tables, seat belt latches, light and air controls, cabin crew call button, overhead compartment handles, adjacent walls, bulkheads, windows and window shades, and individual video monitors for charters and to the extent possible for commercial flights.
 - All players and team staff on board the aircraft should wear appropriate PPE.
 - **Accommodations To the extent possible, home teams should arrange for the following for hotels in their market.**
 - **Team Arrival.**
 - Hotel staff shall wear appropriate PPE at all times.
 - Doors are propped open to avoid unnecessary touching of surfaces.
 - Elevators have been cleaned and keyed off to take the team to their secured floors (as applicable)
 - Bell carts to be sanitized.
 - Lobby standing stanchions.
 - Room keys sanitized before distribution.
 - Queue to be clearly marked for appropriate social distancing.
 - Hand sanitizer made available in the lobby.
 - Increased frequency of cleaning and sanitizing increased in public spaces, with an emphasis on frequent contact surfaces such as front desk check-in counters, bell desks, elevators and elevator buttons, door handles, public restrooms, rooms keys and locks, and stair handrails, dining surfaces and seating areas.



CONFIDENTIAL

Note: Specific scenarios may arise that these protocols do not address. In these circumstances, NWSL will consult with medical professionals to develop the most appropriate plan. NWSL reserves the right to update these protocols as appropriate.

- **Housekeeping**
 - *CDC Cleaning Requirements for Hotels* [CDC.Gov - Hotels](#)
 - Particular attention paid to disinfecting high-touch items such as television remotes, toilet seats and handles, door and furniture handles, water faucet handles, nightstands, telephones, in-room control panels, light switches, temperature control panels, coffee makers, alarm clocks, luggage racks and flooring.
 - Carts, trolleys, and equipment to be sanitized at the start and end of each shift.
 - All bed linen and laundry to be washed at high temperatures in accordance with the CDC guidelines.
 - Limited-contact housekeeping services to be offered.
 - New towels and linens to be left on the counter and trash removal.
 - Paper products to be delivered are still wrapped.
 - Appropriate PPE to be worn by housekeeping staff.

- **Guest Rooms**
 - Each room will be cleaned prior to checking in, as well as cleaned during the duration of the stay if needed. Limited housekeeping at the request of the home team as daily cleaning is not needed.

- **Meeting Rooms**
 - Hand sanitizer made available.
 - Linens to be changed completely after each meal or meeting, chairs to be sprayed with sanitizing spray, doorknobs cleaned.

- **Private Team Eating Areas**
 - Servers to wear appropriate PPE always.
 - One server present if prepackaged meals are not an option

- **Back of House**
 - Frequency of cleaning and sanitizing increased in high traffic back-of-house areas with emphasis on employee dining rooms, entrances, uniform control rooms, restrooms, loading docks, offices, and kitchens.