

Effective Date: August 19, 2020



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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 Guidance on PPE Usage

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance on the use of PPE in connection with the continuation of the 2020 NWSL season. PPE, or personal protection equipment, is equipment worn to minimize exposure to hazards that may cause serious injuries or illnesses.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) states that a significant portion of individuals with coronavirus lack symptoms (“asymptomatic”) and that even those who eventually develop symptoms (“pre-symptomatic”) can transmit the virus to others before showing symptoms. This means that the virus can spread between people interacting in close proximity – for example, speaking, coughing, or sneezing – even if those people are not exhibiting symptoms.

In light of this, the CDC recommends wearing face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain. As part of its efforts to provide as safe an environment as possible, NWSL is requiring the use of masks by players, league and staff personnel in certain situations, as described below.

Clubs are providing masks and following is guidance on their appropriate use by players, league and staff personnel:

- Masks must be worn while in transit, including during plane travel and while at the airport
- Masks must be worn at all times when outside of your apartment or room (except when exercising, training, playing or eating)
- Masks must be worn in locker rooms (as feasible and as locker room use is permitted) and common spaces
- All personnel who access the facilities and field on game day are to wear masks *except* players and referees when on the field (with the exception of the fourth official who shall continue to wear a mask)
- As teams leave the field at half time, they will be provided with masks
- Team staff and substitute players are to wear masks in the technical area
- Medical staff are to use masks (and gloves) when working with players
- Photographers, broadcast personnel, media and venue personnel are to wear masks at all times
- Masks will not have vents present in them. Neck gators and bandanas are not approved mask alternatives.

