



**MINISTRY OF HEALTH,  
WELLNESS AND THE  
ENVIRONMENT**

Ministerial Building, Kingstown,  
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

## **GUIDANCE FOR SPORTING EVENTS**

This document, adapted from *"WHO Considerations for sports federations/sports event organizers when planning mass gatherings in the context of COVID-19: interim guidance"*, has been developed to assist sporting organizations (cricket, football, netball, basketball, rugby, gymnastics, table tennis, lawn tennis etc.) to safely execute sporting events during the COVID-19 pandemic or any other outbreak of a disease affecting the respiratory system. Organizations should consult and collaborate with national health authorities to identify and reduce risks to ensure that the health and safety of players, officials, support staff and spectators are maintained.

### **PLAYERS/OFFICIALS/SUPPORT STAFF**

#### **PRE-EVENT**

- Arrange for “bubble” concept to minimize risk of disease transmission - Players and support staff assigned to special facilities based on teams. Interaction will be between these trusted contacts for duration of tournament. Scheduled entry and exit times for teams to allow for adequate processing by medical team. Markings placed on ground indicating appropriate distancing between players during daily screen. Where the “bubble” concept is not practical, arrangements should be made for players/officials/support staff to be transported to and from training and events within their team of “close contacts”.
- Regular health status self-checks by anyone participating in event (athlete, official, support staff) - Symptoms of COVID-19: Fever (self-reported or measured temperature > 100.4 F or 38 C), cough, shortness of breath, new loss of taste or smell, headache, diarrhea, vomiting, muscle pain, abdominal pain
- Contract sufficient support staff for cleaning and food handling - Check for food handlers’ certificate
- Develop system for communicating risk of COVID-19 to players, officials and support staff. Email or video-conferencing system for notification of risks
- Brief players, officials and support staff on relevant health protocol for suspected, confirmed cases and infection prevention and control practices. Provide information on proper use of masks, hand hygiene, cough and sneeze etiquette, quarantine and isolation requirements.
- Signage for practicing hygienic measures and physical distancing erected (across change rooms, training facilities). Electronic infographics available on WHO, PAHO and MOHWE websites/social media platforms.



**MINISTRY OF HEALTH,  
WELLNESS AND THE  
ENVIRONMENT**

**Ministerial Building, Kingstown,  
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines**

- Hand hygiene stations set up at multiple locations set up in change rooms, training facilities. Hand washing stations with should have running water and liquid soap. Hand sanitizer gel should have at least 70% alcohol.
- Contract medical team to provide first aid, triage and refer suspected cases for COVID-19 testing. Private medical practitioners or public sector clinicians should be contracted through relevant health authorities.
- Medical masks available for medical team and sick individuals.
- Each team has infrared or non-contact thermometer with recording sheet for player/official/support staff temperature.
- Designate room(s) for isolation of suspected cases.
- Designate room(s) for quarantine of contacts of confirmed cases. Numbers of contacts of confirmed case may be large. Designate appropriately sized space.
- Provide cleaning supplies and equipment for cleaning and disinfection of venue several times daily. Key areas to disinfect include door handles, toilet handles, faucets, light switches, telephones. Provide rubber gloves and linen bags.
- Pedal bins with lid for disposal available in buses, training facilities and tournament venue.
- Provide players with individual prevention packages. Package may include tissue, small laminated prevention card, medical mask to wear if ill, alcohol-based hand wipes, thermometer, symptom monitoring card, hand sanitizer

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**MINISTRY OF HEALTH,  
WELLNESS AND THE  
ENVIRONMENT**

**Ministerial Building, Kingstown,  
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines**

**DURING THE EVENT**

- Any player, official or support staff feeling ill should not attend the event. Ill persons should report being ill via phone or email platform. Provide contact information for reporting changes to health status: COVID-19 HOTLINE: 534-4325 or ACCIDENT & EMERGENCY: 456-1955
- Regular health status self-checks by anyone participating in event (athlete, official, support staff). Symptoms of COVID-19: Fever (self-reported or measured temperature > 100.4 F or 38 C), cough, shortness of breath, new loss of taste or smell, headache, diarrhea, vomiting, muscle pain, abdominal pain.
- Players/officials/support staff checked daily by medical team. Any suspected cases isolated and reported immediately to health authorities. Designated isolation room should be used to isolate suspected case until medical team assessment done or suspected case is referred, transported for care and/testing by health authorities. Close contacts will be determined as persons who have had contact of 1m with suspected or confirmed case for more than 15 minutes. Names, contact information and addresses of these persons will be shared with authorities for contact tracing.
- Players/officials/support staff housed/seated according to teams
- Hands washed frequently with liquid soap and water
- Alcohol based hand sanitizer used when hand-washing not possible
- Cough and sneeze covered with tissue or flexed elbow. Used tissues disposed immediately in bin
- Distance of 1-2m maintained from others
- Avoid with ill persons, including persons with acute respiratory infections
- Avoid contact with anyone if you feel ill
- Sharing of clothing, personal items, bar soaps not permitted
- Touching of face, hugging, shaking hands etc. avoided
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**MINISTRY OF HEALTH,  
WELLNESS AND THE  
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## **SPECTATORS**

### **PRE-EVENT**

- Any spectator attending the (athlete, official, support staff) should report any symptoms of COVID-19 to medical station. Symptoms of COVID-19 - Fever (self-reported or measured temperature > 100.4 F or 38 C), cough, shortness of breath, new loss of taste or smell, headache, diarrhea, vomiting, muscle pain, abdominal pain
- Ticket sales booth have markers on floor indicating 3-6ft distancing between each patron
- Ticket booths have hand sanitizing stations for use by patrons
- Ticket booth sales clerk practice proper hand hygiene. Hands must be sanitized between each client and washed at frequent intervals.
- Signage for practicing hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette and physical distancing erected across venue. Electronic infographics available on WHO, PAHO and MOHWE websites/social media platforms.
- Hand hygiene stations set up across venue. Hand washing stations with should have running water and liquid soap. Hand sanitizer gel should have at least 70% alcohol.
- Seating should be arranged allowing for 3-6ft distance between each patron. Available seats should be marked prior to event. Seat numbers will be used for contact tracing if necessary.
- Contract sufficient support staff for cleaning and food handling. Check for food handlers certificate.
- Contract medical team to provide first aid, triage and refer suspected cases for COVID-19 testing. Private medical practitioners or public sector clinicians should be contracted through relevant authorities.
- Medical masks available for medical team and sick individuals.
- Designate room(s) for isolation of suspected cases. Designated isolation room should be used to isolate suspected case until medical team assessment done or suspected case is referred, transported for care and/testing by health authorities. Close contacts will be determined as persons who have had contact of 1m with suspected or confirmed case for more than 15 minutes.
- Designate room(s) for quarantine of contacts of confirmed cases. Numbers of contacts of confirmed case may be large. Designate appropriately sized space. Seat numbers to be used for contact tracing as necessary. Patrons should be asked to maintain tickets for at least 14 days following end of sporting event.



**MINISTRY OF HEALTH,  
WELLNESS AND THE  
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**Ministerial Building, Kingstown,  
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines**

- Provide cleaning supplies and equipment for cleaning and disinfection of venue and bathrooms several times daily. Key areas to disinfect include door handles, toilet handles, faucets, light switches, telephones. Provide rubber gloves and linen bags.

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**MINISTRY OF HEALTH,  
WELLNESS AND THE  
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Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

## **DURING THE EVENT**

- Spectators should be briefed on relevant health protocol for suspected, confirmed cases and infection prevention and control practices prior to start of match. Provide information on proper use of masks, hand hygiene, cough and sneeze etiquette, quarantine and isolation requirements. Provide information on reporting channels. Provide information on symptoms of COVID-19: Fever (self-reported or measured temperature > 100.4 F or 38 C), cough, shortness of breath, new loss of taste or smell, headache, diarrhea, vomiting, muscle pain, abdominal pain.
- Regular health status checks by anyone attending in event (athlete, official, support staff)
- Hand hygiene stations set up at multiple locations across venue
- Limit number of persons permitted in bathroom at any particular time
- Utilize specially trained attendants to ensure that physical distancing is maintained across venue including seating areas, food service areas and bathroom facilities. Congregating should not be permitted at any location on the sport venue or any location immediately outside the venue
- Multiple entry and exits should be used to ensure that physical distancing is maintained during entry and exit. Separate entrance from exit.

*Please note that this document may be revised at any time at the discretion of the Health Services Subcommittee of the National Emergency Committee/COVID-19 Task Force, Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment.*

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