



Valpo Parks COVID-19 Communication Plan

YOUTH SPORTS

Background

On March 24, 2020, Valpo Parks initiated safety protocols following Governor Holcomb's Executive Order as a response to COVID-19. At that time, offices, parks, facilities were closed to help prevent the spread of the virus. Administration staff were required to work from home while golf, maintenance and horticulture remained operational with restrictions (ex. split shifts, reduced hours, one person per vehicle, etc.). As safety measures were solidified and proper PPE acquired, the City of Valparaiso, Valpo Parks Board and Valpo Parks agreed to reopen Creekside and Forest Park Golf Courses on Wednesday, April 22, 2020 and April 27, 2020 with modifications (see Valpo Parks Golf section for details). Following further direction from Governor Holcomb, CDC and Valparaiso City Administration, a five-stage plan was enacted to get Valpo safely moving forward. The following document outlines steps that have been and will be taken to ensure the health and well-being of the community remains the top priority.

Back on Track Valpo Parks

Per Governor Holcomb's Executive Order, Valpo Parks has aligned the Back on Track plan to mirror what the state has outlined. As updates become available through the Governor's office, updates will be made through the Valpo Parks communication channels (i.e., Facebook, website, e-blast).

General Guidelines

For all staff and participants, regardless of exposure risks, it is always a good practice to:

- Frequently wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. When soap and running water are unavailable, use an alcohol-based hand rub with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands that are visibly soiled.
- If necessary, develop staff schedules that allow for short breaks to increase frequency with which staff can wash hands with soap and water.
- Alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at 60% alcohol shall be provided at workstations with high customer-volumes.
- Avoid touching your entire face, including your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Practice good respiratory etiquette, including covering coughs and sneezes.
- Stay home if sick.



- Recognize personal risk factors. Certain people, including older adults and those with underlying conditions such as heart or lung disease or diabetes, are at higher risk of complications from COVID-19.

Sports Specific:

- Umpires will be checked for temperatures
- Hand Sanitizer will be available for both teams for home games however it is recommended all parents add hand sanitizer to equipment bag for practices and away games.
- Coach/Scorekeeper will be assigned to remove bat from batters' box and clean equipment and watch for social distancing parameters.
- No handshaking, high fives, fist bumps, group celebrations, or huddles. Teams will clap after games to show good sportsmanship to the other teams on foul lines.
- No seeds, gum, or spitting.
- Masks are allowed, but not required.
- The team manager, or designee, will be responsible for enforcing these guidelines.
- Exchange lineups verbally.
- The pregame meeting will be limited to one team representative each and social distancing will be observed.
- Umpires may be positioned behind the pitcher if desired and may wear a face covering. The umpire should avoid contact with the ball and bats as much as possible.
- Dugouts will be extended to ensure social distancing
- Parents must monitor all symptoms daily. If symptoms are present, you will not be allowed to participate.
- Spectators will have a designated viewing area. This will be noted as we get closer to games with mapped areas.

For specific questions, contact Lisa Hutton, Youth Recreation Director
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