



UPDATES & NEWS ABOUT THE NOVEL CORONA VIRUS

Softball AB reminds players, coaches, umpires and parents to take regular preventative measures to stop the spread of respiratory viruses such COVID-19 and Influenza.

Teams travelling for tournaments should follow the standard precautions below to ensure that athletes, coaches, and parents remain healthy.

1. Wash your hands thoroughly as often as possible. Hands should be washed with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and then, after rinsing them thoroughly, they should be dried with a disposable towel; if soap and water are not available, a 60% alcohol-based hand sanitizer can also be used.
2. Do not drink from the same bottle/glass in competition or in training, always using disposable glasses or a nominal or otherwise personalized bottle, and do not exchange other items (towels, bathrobes, etc.) with your companions.
3. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue - preferably disposable - or with your arm, but not with your hand, if you cough or sneeze.
4. Avoid touching your face, eyes or mouth before washing your hands
5. Disinfect frequently touched surfaces.
6. Avoid sharing food, drinks, utensils, straws.
7. Avoid consuming food in the changing rooms/dugouts.
8. Put personal items and clothing in bags, avoiding leaving them exposed in the changing rooms/dugouts
9. Another preventative measure teams should take is to contact the tournament's organizers to learn if it has taken preventative measures to minimize exposure to health risks.

Teams currently training in rental facilities in Alberta should consult with each of these individual facilities to be aware of what they have in place for that specific facility. Common sense must prevail in all cases - if you're not feeling well then don't attend anything.

At this time Softball Alberta is not cancelling any events but will continue to monitor the situation as we receive updates.

March 12 - New public health restrictions

Alberta Health Services is asking organizers to cancel any events that have more than 250 attendees. This includes large sporting events, conferences and community events. It does not extend to places of worship, grocery stores, airports or shopping centres.

Any event that has more than 50 attendees and expects to have international participants, or involves critical infrastructure staff, seniors, or other high-risk populations should also be cancelled.

Events that do not meet these criteria can proceed, but risk mitigation must be in place, such as sanitizer stations and distancing between attendees.

Furthermore, teams should contact the provincial, state or municipal health authorities in the region where teams will play and stay to ensure there are no respiratory virus health warnings.

Potential links for teams travelling in AB or abroad:

1. [Alberta Health Services](#)
2. [Health Link BC](#)
3. [Washington State Department of Health](#)
4. [Oregon Health Authority](#)
5. [California Department of Public Health](#)
6. [Arizona Department of Health Services](#)

For more information on how to stay safe during team travel, please review these links

1. Health Canada -- [Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\): Outbreak update](#)
2. Health Canada -- [Coronavirus infection: Prevention and risks](#)
3. World Health Organization -- [Key planning recommendations for Mass Gatherings in the context of the current COVID-19 outbreak](#)
4. World Health Organization -- [Public health for mass gatherings: key considerations](#)

Softball Alberta Insurance:

Markel travel policy does not provide trip cancellation. For example, if a team who is planning to travel, decide to cancel and lose money on their flights. At the moment, there is no market we are aware of that offers trip cancellation for flights and trips booked and then cancelled due to COVID-19

The Markel policy will respond for anything “sudden or unexpected”. For example, if someone contracts COVID-19 in the USA while traveling, they would be covered but only to a certain extent. If it is for a few weeks, Markel will honour the claim. However, if it is treatment for 3 months, this is beyond the scope of coverage the policy has been intended for.

Canada Advisory - Website

Canada has a ranking or rating system. If the Canada Advisory advises “avoid all non-essential travel”, then the insurer would deny the claim if the individual still advises to travel to this area. For example, it was from Wuhan China?

Since USA or parts of the USA have not had a travel advisory advising “avoid all non-essential travel”, this means the individuals traveling would still have coverage.

What have other sports been doing?

Globally, you have read or seen on the news, professional teams are deciding not to play or avoid travel altogether. On the amateur sport side, we have seen a lot of teams, PSOs, TSOs, and NSOs cancel their trips to tournaments in another province or abroad.