



**Reading Recreation Commission-COR Tennis  
"Safe Play Protocol"  
COVID-19**

**(Updated March 2021)**

The purpose of these guidelines are to insure a safe and efficient return of tennis for the Parks and Recreation facilities.

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented organizations with a myriad of challenges. The COVID19 virus is a highly contagious illness that primarily attacks the upper respiratory system. The virus that causes COVID-19 can infect people of all ages. While it is not possible to eliminate all risk of furthering the spread of COVID-19, the current science suggests there are many steps organizations can take to reduce the risks to participants, coaches, and their families.

The Reading Recreation Commission document includes input from the CDC, PA DOH, Berks County Tennis Association and the USTA's (United States Tennis Association) "Playing Tennis Safely: Player Tips and Recommendations", "Facility and Programming Recommendations" and Safe Play Protocol from Industry Professionals.

Because tennis does not require any direct person-to-person contact, players can enjoy the many physical and mental benefits that tennis offers so long as you practice physical distancing by keeping six feet apart from other players to ensure you are in a safe exercise environment and follow other safety recommendations included here

The RRC realizes the knowledge regarding COVID-19 is constantly changing as new information and treatments become available. These recommendations will be adjusted as needed as new information becomes available in order to decrease the risk of exposure for our participants, coaches, and spectators.

**POINT OF CONTACT** Matt Lubas (610-655-6067), [matthew.lubas@readingpa.gov](mailto:matthew.lubas@readingpa.gov) is designated a primary point of contact for all questions related to COVID-19.

**GENERAL SAFETY PROCEDURES**

- Hand sanitizing stations on courts.
- Mandatory check-in of all participants and coaches entering any tennis facility. Screenings will include a temperature reading and a series of questions:
  1. Have you been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the last 14 days?
  2. Have you experienced a cough shortness of breath or sore throat?

3. Have you had new loss of taste or smell?

4. Have you traveled outside the US in last 14 days?

- If any responses are “YES” to the above questions, players or staff member will NOT be allowed to participate, and will be asked to leave the facility. Temperatures at 100.3 or higher will be sent home. Parents/Guardians will be notified.
- Non-admittance of any individual who is showing clear signs of illness.
- All gates should be roped off or left open to prevent touching.
- All participants and coaches must bring their own filled water bottle. Community water stations and sharing through disposable cups will not be allowed.
- Activities that increase the risk of exposure to saliva will not be allowed including chewing gum, spitting and licking fingers.
- If multiple sessions are to be held at the same facility, adequate time shall be scheduled between sessions to allow for facilities to be cleaned and disinfected, and to minimize interaction between participants and spectators.

#### **SAFETY BEHAVIOR FOR PLAYER INCLUDES:**

- Players must wear mask to and from the facility but may elect to remove during play.
- Do not play if you: Are exhibiting any symptoms of the coronavirus. According to the CDC, people with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported—ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. These symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus: fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell.
- Do not play if you: have been in contact with someone with COVID-19 in the last 14 days. A vulnerable individual is an elderly individual and/or an individual with serious underlying health conditions, including high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, obesity, asthma and those whose immune system is compromised such as by chemotherapy for cancer and other conditions requiring such therapy.
- Maintain social distancing on and off courts and avoidance of touching surfaces.
- Arriving no more than 10 minutes before play and exiting within 10 minutes after play.
- Washing hands or sanitizing before entering facility and playing and at completion of play.
- Avoid shaking hands, fist bumps, or high fives before, during or after play. Limit unnecessary physical contact with other participants, coaches and spectators.

#### **TENNIS PROFESSIONAL SAFETY MEASURES**

- Social distancing will be maintained between coaches and participants at all times.
- Coaches shall wear masks at all times.
- Teaching pros should have their own marked hoppers and teaching charts to avoid sharing with other pros.
- All participants and coaches are required to wash or sanitize hands before and after lessons. Disinfectant wipes, hand sanitizer, and/or disinfectant spray will be on court.
- Limit the use of coaching equipment such as target cones.
- Don't let the players handle any coaching equipment.

- Encourage players to use their racquet/foot to push balls back and/or hit them to their opponent to avoid using hands and touching the balls
- Coaches will only handle equipment, disinfect ball between lessons, and should have an assigned court and equipment.
- Position the players at well-spaced stations.

#### **TENNIS BALLS & EQUIPMENT PROTOCOL**

- Practice caution with the tennis balls and avoid letting the participants touch them. Although there is no specific evidence that tennis balls can spread COVID-19, we know that contamination by respiratory droplets from an infected person can potentially survive on hard surfaces up to three days.
- Replace all balls if someone suspected to have COVID-19 comes in contact with them.
- Spraying tennis balls briefly with a disinfectant spray (e.g., Lysol or Clorox) at the conclusion of play. Using new balls on a very regular basis is highly encouraged.
- Hoppers for pickup- NO hand pickup- All hoppers will be utilized for ball pickup, so no players will have to handle tennis balls outside of serving drills.

#### **GUIDANCE FOR CAREGIVERS AND SPECTATORS**

- Seating areas, including bleachers, must adhere to social distancing requirements of at least 6 feet of spacing for anyone not in the same household. Adults should wear face coverings (masks or face shields) at all times.
- Caregivers or spectators should not enter the tennis courts.
- Parents who stay for session should wear and mask when not able to properly social distance.
- Caregivers and coaches should assess levels of risk based on individual athletes on the team who may be at a higher risk for severe illness.
- Caregivers should monitor their children for symptoms prior to any sporting event. Children and athletes who are sick or showing symptoms must stay