

# Play! Pokémon COVID-19 Protocols

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**ENGLISH VERSION**

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# 1 Using This Document

Our **Play! Pokémon COVID-19 Protocols** are intended to give a comprehensive overview of COVID-19 policies in place at Play! Pokémon events.

By entering or attending a Play! Pokémon event, all attendees agree to adhere to the rules and requirements outlined in this handbook. Those who do not may incur penalties, be removed from any tournament in which they are participating, and/or be asked to leave the event venue.

Please be aware that these Protocols may change at any time. We encourage you to check back often and note the date of last revision as listed above.

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## 2 Local Events

### 2.1 Introduction

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Local Events are sanctioned Play! Pokémon tournaments or League sessions that are:

- Held in person rather than digitally, mostly in approved League venues.
- Hosted by Professors rather than The Pokémon Company International (TPCi) staff or contractors.

As Play! Pokémon Local Events begin reopening in select markets, we will require participating venues and organizers to comply with the following guidance. In addition to these rules, all venues must continue to comply with their state and local laws and regulations. To find out if Play! Pokémon programs are reopening in your market, please check this page. [\[link\]](#)

Failure to adhere to these rules may result in loss of eligibility to participate in some or all Play! Pokémon programs. As such, it is the responsibility of all participating venues to:

- Fully understand and adhere to all applicable local laws and regulations pertaining to COVID-19.
  - **Please note:** Where applicable laws and regulations conflict with these rules, it is the responsibility of venues and organizers to refrain from hosting Play! Pokémon events until the conflict no longer exists.
- Regularly and thoroughly document compliance with the requirements below, as well as future updates.
- Retain that documentation for no less than 3 months.
- Promptly provide that documentation to TPCi at our request.

Please see the FAQ below for more information on documentation.

## 2.2 Local Event COVID-19 Requirements

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- Signs must be posted at each public entrance in clear view of your clientele. These signs must:
  - Advise individuals of the most recent known COVID-19 symptoms.
  - Ask symptomatic individuals, regardless of vaccination status, not to enter the venue.
- All present (players, audience, and staff) must wear appropriate face masks at all times.
- No eating or drinking inside the venue is allowed during the event for players and staff, unless there is a clearly separated food service space operated in strict accordance with local health regulations and ordinances. In such cases, eating or drinking inside the venue is permissible; however, it must remain clearly separated from the event.
- Players should sanitize their hands prior to facing new opponents. Players may touch each other's cards but should forgo the traditional pre-game handshake. We strongly recommend that the venue make hand sanitizer available for players.
- Each match is to be separated by at least 3 feet (1m) from other matches, spectators, or other places where people may congregate.
- A separate area that adheres to local laws and regulations regarding social distancing is to be designated for spectators.
- Events are to restrict total participation to a maximum of 30 individuals—including players and spectators at any one time when indoors, or 60 individuals when outdoors. This is true even if more people could otherwise be accommodated while meeting all other requirements listed above in terms of spacing. Venue and event staff are not counted when determining whether this restriction is being met.

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## 3 Premier Events

### 3.1 Introduction

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For the purposes of our COVID-19 policy, Premier Events are sanctioned Play! Pokémon tournaments and promotional activities that are:

- Regional Championships
- International Championships

- World Championships
- Other events listed on [www.pokemon.com](http://www.pokemon.com) that are operating as Premier Events per these protocols

As Play! Pokémon begins sanctioning and advertising Premier Events in select markets, we will be implementing a COVID-19 policy that is generally more stringent than that which is required for Local Events.

To see where Play! Pokémon Premier Events have been advertised, please check this page. [link]

Failure to adhere to these requirements will result in an inability to enter or remain in an event venue. Attempts to circumvent these requirements may result in disciplinary action up to and including loss of eligibility to participate in some or all Play! Pokémon programs. As such, it will be the responsibility of all participating attendees and/or their parent or guardian to:

- Fully understand all COVID-19 requirements and processes detailed below.
- Arrive at Premier Events prepared to comply with all of our COVID-19 requirements and processes detailed below for the duration of the event.

While we remain dedicated to the safety and well-being of all event attendees, we understand that local regulations can change with very short notice. In some circumstances, where we cannot avoid such issues, the requirements listed here may shift to comply with local laws. In these circumstances, we will work with the Tournament Organizer to ensure that players are made aware of any updates that have occurred.

## 3.2 Premier Event COVID-19 Requirements

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- All attendees and staff must show proof of vaccination as defined below.
  - Satisfactory proof of vaccination includes documentation of a full primary vaccination series that is World Health Organization (WHO) Emergency Use Listed (EUL). Find the most up-to-date list of approved vaccines [HERE](#).
  - If the last dose of the initial vaccine series was administered 7 months or more prior to any of the event dates, documentation of a booster dose will also be required.
    - Attendees ages 12–17 with only two vaccine doses may attend events, no booster required.
    - Attendees under the age of 12 may attend events without showing proof of vaccination.
  - All required vaccinations must be received at least two weeks before the start date of the event being attended.
- Individuals who have or develop symptoms consistent with COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status, should notify event staff and refrain from attending the event.
  - If designated event staff observe symptoms consistent with COVID-19, they may direct symptomatic individuals to leave the event venue. Out of an abundance of caution, this may impact people other than the symptomatic individuals themselves. People sharing

accommodations with them, their parents, guardians, and minors under their care may also be asked to leave even if those people are asymptomatic.

- Attendees and staff will wear an acceptable face mask at all times during the event unless actively eating or drinking while in designated areas.
  - Attendees may not eat food during events unless they are eating in a designated eating area and maintaining a minimum of 3 feet distance.
  - Dining areas for staff should be clearly demarcated and designated as “staff only.”
- Players should sanitize their hands prior to facing new opponents. Players may touch each other’s cards but are to forgo the traditional pre-game handshake.
- Players must adhere to social distancing requirements according to event signage and as instructed by event staff.
- Premier Events must have a properly certified COVID Officer (CCO) on site.
  - CCO responsibilities will include but are not limited to:
    - Conducting on site safety briefings.
    - Monitoring implementation and compliance with COVID-19 protocols.
    - Intervening, recording, and reporting non-compliance.
- Premier Events must have a licensed healthcare professional on site.
  - These healthcare professionals’ responsibilities include but are not limited to:
    - Answering medical questions regarding COVID-19 symptoms, quarantine, and testing.
    - Providing basic emergency medical care.

### 3.3 Premier Event COVID-19 Processes

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When arriving at a Play! Pokémon Premier Event, all attendees will need to check in. This will involve the following steps:

- Review and respond verbally to the on-site healthcare questionnaire.
- Provide proof of vaccinations as described in the requirements above. At this point in the process, a wristband will be provided to indicate compliance with our vaccination requirements. This must be worn for the duration of the event in order to re-enter the venue.
- Have security conduct a bag check.
- Complete registration and check-in.

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## 4 FAQ

### Q. Who is responsible for meeting Local Event requirements?

Everyone is responsible for ensuring a safe and healthy event.

- Professors: You are to ensure the venue meets these requirements, to organize events only at venues that are compliant, and to document that compliance.
- Store Owners & Venue Staff: You are also responsible for enforcing these requirements and for making sure compliance is documented.
- Players and Spectators: You are to follow the instructions given by the venue and Professors in charge of the event and to report noncompliance to TPCi.

**Q. What if I cannot wear a face mask at Local Events due to health reasons?**

If you cannot comply with the rules listed above, it is your responsibility to refrain from attending Local Events until these requirements are lifted.

**Q. Our Local Event venue has a café, restaurant, or other food or snack service. Can we host events?**

We are not allowing food or drink to be consumed inside during Play! Pokémon events unless there is a clearly separated food service space operated in strict accordance with local health regulations and ordinances. All eating and drinking must remain separate from the event.

**Q. Can our Local Event venue impose rules that are stricter than those listed here? (Example: Vaccination documentation requirements, higher-grade mask requirement.)**

Doing so will not negatively impact one’s eligibility to run Play! Pokémon events. We would encourage the organizer and venue to be sure to announce these requirements clearly in advance of the event. Organizers and venues should also remember that it is their responsibility to be aware of and follow all applicable the laws and regulations when imposing additional rules.

**Q. Should a Local Event venue need to provide documentation to TPCi, what would constitute sufficient documentation?**

Photos, videos, or livestream footage of:

- Required signage
- Event space
- Notices of food and beverage requirements or lack of availability

**Q. Why are Premier Event requirements different than Local Event requirements?**

The nature of our relationships with the venues and contractors involved necessitate two different approaches to opening events. For Premier Events, we can require more stringent staffing and safety controls, which in turn allow us to accommodate larger attendances. We intend to continue to update our policy as we are able in order to ensure the best outcomes for everyone involved.

**Q. Why do I have to be vaccinated *and* masked at Premier events?**

Vaccination is among our best means of protection against COVID-19. Studies show that people who are vaccinated have greatly reduced rates of severe COVID-19 infection and hospitalization. A small percentage of people who test negative for COVID-19 are in early stages of incubation and may be able to transmit the virus in subsequent days. By ensuring that our staff and attendees are vaccinated, we minimize the impact that any such transmission might cause.

Masking in conjunction with a vaccination requirement helps mitigate spread that can occur in vaccinated populations as well.

Each of these precautions serves different purposes, but by combining these efforts to limit impact and transmission, we are able to achieve better outcomes than one might achieve when using either of the above precautions individually.

**Q. I have qualified for a Premier Event but will not meet the requirements to attend or am prevented from attending due to travel restrictions. Will my qualification continue to be valid for future events?**

If the event you are qualified to attend occurs and you are unable to attend, this qualification will not be valid for future events.

**Q. Will Premier Event Organizers provide appropriate face masks?**

No. While Premier Event Organizers will provide masks for staff, it will be the responsibility of all participating attendees and their parent or guardian to arrive at Premier Events prepared to comply with all COVID-19 requirements.

**Q. How does TPCi define an acceptable face mask?**

For the purposes of Play! Pokémon events, these are the only forms of acceptable face masks:

- Disposable surgical/medical procedure masks with all of the following characteristics:
  - A proper fit over your nose and mouth to prevent leaks.
    - Straps can be twisted or tied to improve the fit.
    - Material can be folded or tucked improve the fit.
  - Multiple layers (minimum 2-ply) of non-woven material.
  - Nose wire.
  - No exhalation valve present.
- Respirators designed to meet international standards such as:
  - N95, KN95, 1st, DL2, DL3, DS2, DS3, FFP2, FFP3, KN100, KP95, KP100, P2, P3, PFF2, PFF3, R95, and Special
  - Note: Respirators with exhalation valves or vents are **not** allowed.
- Combinations of the above masks/respirators, or one of the above in combination with a cloth mask.
  - Cloth masks used in this fashion should have:
    - A proper fit over your nose and mouth to prevent leaks.
    - Multiple layers (minimum 2-ply) of tightly woven, breathable fabric.
    - Nose wire.
    - Fabric that blocks light when held up to a bright light source.
  - Cloth masks used in this fashion should **not** have:
    - Gaps around the sides of the face or nose.
    - Exhalation valves, vents, or other openings (see example).
    - Single-layer fabric, or thin fabric that does not block light.
  - Cloth masks will only be accepted when used simultaneously with an acceptable respirator or surgical/medical procedure mask. A cloth mask alone, or even two cloth masks used together, will not be considered an acceptable face mask.



**Q. How will updates to this policy be communicated?**

This handbook will be updated with any future changes to our policy; please take note of the date at the top of the document.

**Q. I have more questions not covered here. How can I learn more?**

If you have further questions, a potential medical exemption, or concerns about your ability to comply with our COVID-19 policies, please contact us via [Customer Service](#).