



VNL 2021 – COVID-19 VOLLEYBALL SAFETY
GUIDELINES

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1. Introduction

Following the outbreak of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) and its rapid evolution, the FIVB has established these guidelines for all the VNL stakeholders (organisers and participants) to strictly follow while participating in the VNL. The guideline sets all possible mitigation steps to reduce the risk of infection for those involved in the VNL during the COVID-19 pandemic to the greatest extent possible.

The FIVB VNL 2021 COVID-19 Volleyball Safety Guidelines hereafter detail the actions to be taken by all stakeholders of the FIVB considering the three phases of the event. The “During the Event” phase considerations are more detailed providing requirements and recommendations based on specific locations at the competition site.

The following assumptions shall be also considered:

1. The protection given by vaccination against COVID-19 is not 100% effective.
2. Vaccination protects against being sick, but it is not known whether it prevents viral transmission to others.
3. There are no scientific data on how long the vaccine is effective.
4. New virus mutations raise doubts about the effectiveness of the current approved vaccines.

FIVB will form a “COVID Task Force” for the VNL 2021 Bubble that will consist of the:

- FIVB Medical Delegates,
- FIVB COVID-19 Operations Coordinator (also to act as the coordinator of the COVID Task Force), and
- Local Hygiene Officer.

The COVID Task Force will be responsible for:

Before the Event

- reviewing the Local Medical Safety Plan (described in section [2.1](#) below),
- verifying the COVID-19 test results of event participants and communicate the results to the event participants before the start of the competition,
- assessing the status of individuals who have recovered from COVID-19 and
- developing education and awareness program for the Team Hygiene Officers

During the Event

- overseeing enforcement of safety measures at site as per these guidelines,
- conducting daily briefings for Team Hygiene Officers (described in section [3.5.1](#) below).
During the daily briefings the COVID Task Force will:
 - collect and review results of Daily Triage Form for all participating Teams,
 - verify the COVID-19 test results of event participants and communicate the results to the event participants during the event.

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the remainder of VNL Handbook and the FIVB Event Regulations and must be considered as a material term for the organisation of and the participation in the event.

In the event that any party fails to fulfil its obligations under these guidelines, the FIVB reserves the right to suspend the accreditation of such party and the persons in contact with said party. Additional disciplinary action may also be taken by the FIVB in accordance with the FIVB Disciplinary Regulations and the Specific Competition Regulations found in the VNL Handbook.

Please note that the current version of the COVID-19 safety protocol has been submitted to the Italian governmental authorities, and may be subject to amendments. FIVB will monitor developments and distribute additional information/update the protocol as necessary.

Based on the abovementioned remarks and assumptions, the following considerations must be implemented by all stakeholder groups.

2. Before the Event

2.1. Responsibilities of the Organising Committee (OC)

Organising Committee (OC) must prepare a **Local Medical Safety Plan**, considering the current local measures and government regulations, and submit the first version of the Plan to the COVID Task Force forty-five (45) days prior to the start of the event for review. The following information shall be included:

- **Travel restrictions and quarantine requirements** upon arrival in place which might impact the participants (teams and individuals both travelling from abroad and also within the host country) of the event. Requirements on presentation of a negative PCR test result upon arrival to the country must also be elaborated.
- **Appointment of a Local Hygiene Officer**, who must be in close contact with the local authorities, the relevant FIVB departments (Medical, Volleyball and Event Operations) to monitor the evolution of the pandemic and any changes to the local legislation, regulations and any other guidance and measures applied locally and nationally. Local Hygiene Officer will be part of the COVID Task Force that will be formed for the VNL 2021 Bubble.
- **Contact details of the Local Hygiene Officer**
- **Sampling and Testing Provider** — appointment of the provider responsible for sampling and testing the participants during the event. A copy of the contract signed between the OC and the said Sampling and Testing Provider must be submitted to the COVID Task Force as an annex to the Local Medical Safety Plan.
- **Policy for isolating individuals** must be developed in the event that an individual shows signs of COVID-19-like symptoms. The policy must consider local legislation and must detail different scenarios:
 - 1) at the Competition Venue
 - 2) at the Hotel and how individuals will be transported to a treatment facility.

As a principle, isolation rooms must be designated in all: Competition Venue/Training Facilities and Hotels. Please refer to section [3.6.2](#) COVID-19 Protocol on Site for details regarding isolation and/or quarantine requirements in case of COVID-19 cases during event.

- **Local Healthcare System:** details on how event stakeholders should interact with the local healthcare system (e.g. hotline/helpline telephone number, medical teams and first-aid points, local health care system)
- **Laundry Service:** information on how this service will be provided to the teams, detailing the procedure of collection of laundry from the teams and return of the clean items. Laundry service plan must ensure utmost security, both for the personnel and the teams.
- **Safety measures** applied as part of the accommodation and transportation plans. Said plans must ensure:
 - Carefully selected hotels for officials and teams, respecting this protocol and the FIVB Regulatory framework. Ideally, hotels should be located as close as possible to the Competition Venue to minimise the local transportation trajectory.
 - Fast check-in process at the hotels to avoid gatherings at the welcome desk or hotel lobby. A dedicated holding area for each stakeholder group at the hotel lobby must be allocated as needed.
 - Exclusive floor for each Team Delegation at the Teams' Hotel, to prevent contact with other hotel guests and/or other Team Delegations/event stakeholder groups. If exclusive floor per team cannot be secured, then the flow on each floor must avoid close contact of different Team Delegations.
 - Avoid sitting in large groups and keep minimum 1,5m distance during meals with, ideally, a dedicated dining area for each team delegation.
 - Avoid buffet type meals in hotel restaurants, where possible. If buffet cannot be avoided, then hotel personnel to serve the food from the buffet to the participants.
 - A dedicated bus for each Team Delegation.
 - Cleaning and disinfection of transportation vehicles shall be ensured after each ride.
 - Transportation schedule to be set in a way that members of different target groups arrive to the Competition Venue at different times.
- The Local Medical Safety Plan shall be reviewed regularly during “before the event” phase (minimum every three weeks) and updated immediately before the transition to the “during the event” phase.

OC must acquire the following supplies to ensure the health of all participants at all locations and lowest risk of transmission of COVID-19:

- Personal protective equipment, such as FFP2 (preferred) or surgical face masks and gloves, for its own staff. For the avoidance of doubt, the OC will not be required to provide face masks to the Team Delegations, FIVB Officials and Service Providers. **All event participants are required to supply their own FFP2 or surgical masks for the entire event;**
- Hand sanitiser and alcohol rubs/gel tissues made available at all entrances and other areas throughout the Competition Venue/Training Facilities and Hotels;
- Thermometers;
- Trash Bins (covered with lid with pedal) for all disposable items (tissues, food trash, plastic bottles, etc.);

- Disposable water (PET) bottles for individual usage for matches, training sessions and during transportation — water bottles used at any of these locations cannot be moved to another location and must be disposed at the same location;
- Hygiene wipes for the disinfection of the balls;
- Any other needed supplies.

Competition Venue signage should be increased in appropriate locations throughout the venue (access points, changing rooms, fitness gyms, competition hall, medical area, etc.) outlining advisable precautions. Competition Venue signage requirements are:

- Traffic flows for each individual stakeholder group
- Zone Limitation
- Circulation Indicators
- Isolation Room
- Directions to All Rooms and Areas
- Alcohol Hand Sanitiser Indicators
- Posters of caution at various places

OC members and staff (including drivers) must present a negative PCR test result conducted forty-eight (48) hours before the arrival of the event participants. The compliance with these guidelines is mandatory. The Local Hygiene Officer will be responsible for ensuring this and reporting the results to the COVID Task Force.

2.2. Responsibilities of National Teams

Each participating Team Delegation must appoint and confirm the name and contact details of the **Team Hygiene Officer** to the FIVB, who will be responsible for the team's execution of the guidelines and will be the point of contact for COVID related matters/ emergencies.

Each Team Delegation member shall be required to:

- have **individual medical insurance** that covers repatriation and treatment expenses, including COVID-19. Any medical expenses generated (except first aid and local transportation) due to an illness occurring at the competition site will be covered by the respective Team Delegation.
- **undertake a COVID-19 PCR test** within forty-eight (48) hours (calculated from the time of the test) prior to the departure to the event. A negative test result certificate (in English) must be submitted to the COVID Task Force prior to the said departure. Certificates must be issued by authorised health laboratories, and an SMS message is not considered as a valid certificate. The presentation of the negative test certificate (in English) is a mandatory pre-condition for travelling and taking part in the competition.
 - After the test, quarantine is strongly recommended up to the departure time.
- Test certificates (in English) of the entire Team Delegation must be uploaded by the Team Hygiene Officer on the link/platform that will be provided by the FIVB.

COVID Task Force will be responsible to verify the results of the tests. All sensitive personal data will be processed in accordance with the applicable data protection laws including the Swiss Federal Act on Data Protection and the EU General Data Protection Regulation. The legal basis for the processing of the medical data is Articles 9 para. 2 a) and i) GDPR.

- If a Team Delegation member tests positive, he or she may submit additional evidence to the COVID Task Force regarding a past COVID-19 infection and/or a recent vaccination of said individual. If a Team Delegation member tests positive without submitting any of the additional evidence above, said individual will not be allowed to travel.
- The host country's domestic law or regulations and airline requirements shall prevail regarding the admission of the respective individual on the flight or entry to the host country respectively.

Team Delegations must ensure that any member who has tested positive, has COVID-19 symptoms or has come into contact with anyone showing COVID-19 symptoms within the fourteen (14) days prior to departure does not travel to the VNL bubble. Only Team Delegation members with negative PCR COVID-19 test results will be admitted to the safe bubble established for the competition.

Team Delegation members must strictly follow all hygiene precaution measures prior/during travel (FFP2 or surgical face masks, hand washing, social distancing). Personal protective equipment (FFP2 or surgical face masks, gloves, etc.) of each Team must be procured and brought to the Site **by the respective Team**. The OC will not provide personal protective equipment for the Teams on Site.

2.2.1. Risk Prevention Measures Before the Event for National Teams

During the pre-competition training camp and/or prior to travel to the VNL Bubble Site, all Team Delegation members are strongly recommended to have a fourteen (14) day relative isolation. This relative isolation can mean living in normal residences with social contact restrictions or the team living in a secure hotel.

Teams may compete in official/friendly competitions and train during this period. The facilities and any equipment (volleyballs, changing rooms, fitness equipment, etc.) used for competitions and trainings must be appropriately cleaned and disinfected prior to every use.

Teams must facilitate and oversee the relative isolation procedures including limiting contact with non-team members (e.g. people outside of the spouse/partner and children of the participant), limiting the number of participants to those that have essential team roles. Team Delegation members must also limit social interactions except with the immediate family members, that consists of spouse/partner and children.

During this time, Team Hygiene Officers must undergo awareness and education regarding the VNL 2021 COVID-19 Volleyball Safety Guidelines. All other participants are strongly encouraged to attend this program. This should include:

- Roles of various officials including a Team Hygiene Officer which may be a dual role;
- Daily health screening and personal hygiene requirements;

- Transport and accommodation arrangements;
- Admission to VNL Bubble vs. admission to the country/airplane; and,
- COVID-19 testing.

2.3. Responsibilities of FIVB Officials and Service Providers

FIVB Officials and Service Providers must notify FIVB in the event that any local travel restrictions and/or any symptoms of illness may affect their participation at the event.

Each FIVB appointed official and service provider must undertake a COVID-19 PCR test within forty-eight (48) hours (calculated from the time of the test) prior to the departure to the event. A negative test result certificate (in English) must be submitted to the COVID Task Force prior to the said departure. The certificates shall be issued by authorised health laboratories, and an SMS message is not considered as a valid certificate. The presentation of the negative test certificate (in English) is a mandatory pre-condition for travelling and taking part in the competition. Test certificates (in English) must be uploaded by each individual on the link/platform that will be provided by the FIVB.

- If FIVB Officials and/or Service Providers test positive, he or she may submit additional evidence to the COVID Task Force regarding a past COVID-19 infection and/or a recent vaccination of said individual. If FIVB Officials and/or Service Providers test positive without submitting any of the additional evidence above, said individual will not be allowed to travel.
- The host country's domestic law or regulations and airline requirements shall prevail regarding the admission of the respective individual on the flight or entry to the host country respectively.

COVID Task force will be responsible to verify the results of the tests. All sensitive personal data will be processed in accordance with the applicable data protection laws including the Swiss Federal Act on Data Protection and the EU General Data Protection Regulation. The legal basis for the processing of the medical data is Articles 9 para. 2 a) and i) GDPR.

FIVB Officials and Service Providers who have recovered from COVID-19, please refer to section [3.5.3](#) Individuals Who Have Recovered COVID-19 below.

FIVB Officials are provided with medical insurance by the FIVB that covers repatriation and treatment expenses. Any expenses (except first aid and local transportation) due to an illness occurring during the nomination will be covered by the said insurance.

Service Providers must have a medical insurance issued by their employer covering repatriation and treatment expenses, including COVID-19. Any expenses (except first aid and local transportation) due to an illness occurring during the appointment must be covered by the said insurance.

FIVB Officials and Service Providers must strictly follow all hygiene precaution measures prior/during travel (FFP2 or surgical face masks, hand washing, social distancing).

2.3.1. Risk Prevention Measures Before the Event for FIVB Officials and Service Providers

During the pre-competition period prior to travel to the VNL Bubble Site, all FIVB Officials and Service Providers are strongly recommended to have a fourteen (14) day relative isolation. This relative isolation can mean living in normal residences with social contact restrictions limited to immediate family (spouse/partner and children).

Individuals may resume their professional work during this period; however, utmost attention must be paid to hygiene principles.

3. During the Event

3.1. General Considerations

The VNL Bubble general considerations, including but not limited to the items listed below, shall be strictly adhered to at all times regardless of the location at the competition site:

- FFP2 or surgical face masks shall be used by ALL stakeholders at all times. Exceptions:
 - All participants while sleeping and eating;
 - Seven (7) players (including the libero and the player that is being replaced by the libero) and the head coach of each team on the court during a match;
 - FIVB referees (first and second) during a match;
 - Players of a team during a training session;may remove their masks.
- It is recommended to change face masks every four (4) hours. Cloth and/or fabric face masks are not accepted within the VNL Bubble.
- Social distancing shall be respected whenever possible. Crowds in common spaces shall be avoided (hotel lobby, elevators). The use of elevators by members of different Teams shall be avoided.
- All common spaces (e.g., conference/video rooms) shall be cleaned with antiseptic solution before their use by the next team. The maximum number of people allowed in a room shall respect the limit of at least 1 person per 4 m².
- The movement of players and officials must be restricted to sports facilities and hotels. Contact with public shall be avoided.
- All participants are recommended to carry personal hand sanitizer.

3.2. Competition Venue / Training Facilities

In view of the pandemic and to mitigate the risk of a spread of the COVID-19 virus within the VNL Bubble, additional policies will be implemented as follows:

- All individuals participating in the event shall wear FFP2 or surgical face masks and respect any other established prevention measures at any time during the competition unless otherwise defined herein.
- FFP2 or surgical face masks must be used by players in the warm-up zone and while seated at the team bench. FFP2 or surgical face masks must be worn by Team Officials at the team bench (except the head coach as outlined in section [3.1](#) above) at all time during the match.
- First and Second Referees must always wear the FFP2 or surgical face mask before and after the game, i.e. from entering the Field of Play, throughout the entire protocol, during the coin toss and until everything for the first service is ready.
- First and Second Referees must keep the mask available at their fingertips or folded on their neck to be used whenever interaction is required with the captain/coach/scorer table.
- Mandatory use of hand sanitizer made available at all entrances and areas throughout the Competition Venue/Training Facilities when entering the respective area.
- Hand sanitizers to be placed at team benches, official/team statistician working positions, VCS working position, each ball retriever position, scorers table, SPR table, jury table and all working positions.
- Any trash should be disposed in the designated bins.
- Team members (players and Team Officials), that are not selected for a match, may attend the matches of their team ONLY. These team members shall be seated in the designated team seating, respect social distancing and wear an FFP2 or surgical face mask during the match. They shall leave the venue with their Team when the match is concluded.
- Family members, who are accepted in the VNL Bubble, are allowed in the venue to watch matches of their team ONLY. Family members shall be seated in the designated team seating, respect social distancing and wear an FFP2 or surgical face mask during the match. They shall leave the venue with their Team when the match is concluded.
- Team handshake to be eliminated from the pre match protocol.
- Exchange of any kind of gifts (pins, flags, etc.) between teams to be eliminated.
- Court switch at the end of the sets to be eliminated.
- It is strongly recommended that Team Delegation members to refrain from sharing equipment, such as water bottles, food and towels, which must only be used on an individual basis. Equipment used during the matches (water bottles, towels, etc.) must be left at the competition court at the end of the match.
- Team Officials are strongly recommended to leave 1,5m of distance while seated on team bench.
- Substitute players should as much as possible to stay in the warm up area during the match, and keep social distance.
- Usage of common equipment at the Competition Venue/Training Facilities, such as massage table, etc., should be avoided when possible.
- Team Delegations will be allowed to access changing rooms before/after a match. Showers at changing rooms shall be suspended and shall not be used by the Team Delegation members.
- Changing rooms of the Teams shall be disinfected after each use. Cleaning staff may only enter the locker rooms when they are empty of all other individuals.

- For the training sessions (including fitness sessions), Team Delegations must arrive shortly before the start of their training session, dressed for training, and depart immediately afterwards. Team Delegations will not be allowed to access a changing room prior to/after a training session (including fitness sessions).
- Team Hygiene Officers will be responsible for the disinfection of the ball during their team's training session. Balls should be wiped with an antiseptic solution (alcohol based), provided by the OC, as often as possible during the training session.
- OC must plan for a break between two training sessions with enough time for the disinfecting and cleaning procedures.
- OC and FIVB must define a precise schedule for all the activities carried out, such as trainings, set-up activities, rehearsals well in advance to avoid any large gatherings and separate stakeholder groups from gathering. During the competition, changes to the activity schedule can only be applied upon the approval of the FIVB Technical Delegate.
- Only three (3) people are allowed at the control table: E-scoresheet Scorer, Reserve Referee and E-scoresheet Technician - all of them must wear a FFP2 or surgical face mask at all times.
- Referees to eliminate sharing equipment such as cards, whistle, etc.
- Referees to arrive at the venue dressed for the competition and avoid using changing rooms. Changing rooms of the referees to be disinfected, if used. The access to the Referee dressing rooms must be exclusively restricted to the referees and the referee coach. Cleaning staff may only enter the locker rooms when they are empty of all other individuals.
- Items shared by individuals, such as referee communication headsets, laptops, team tablets, team benches, referee chair, etc. to be disinfected after each match.
- The referees, when not on duties, cannot remain in the venue and shall return to the hotel.
- All working areas and rooms in the Competition Venue should be disinfected regularly, once every three (3) hours, throughout the day, as per the local legislation.
- Line judges not to be assigned for the event.
- Ball retrievers to wear FFP2 or surgical face masks and latex gloves during the matches. Ball retrievers must keep the ball on the floor at their feet until needed and must disinfect their hands before and after pre match protocol and before and after each set.
- Ball retrievers must maintain at least a 1.5m distance from the players at all times.
- Match balls must be wiped with an antiseptic solution (alcohol based) at all times when not in play.
- Escort kids for the pre match protocol will not be allowed.
- Use of fitness gym shall be limited to small groups, maximum 1 person for every 4 m². Hygiene practices are mandatory, such as use of hand sanitiser before, during and after the practice, use disposable tissues or inside of the elbow when coughing or sneezing and dispose the tissue using the bins.
- Bathrooms to be regularly, once every two (2) hours, checked for soap and sanitizer.
- Separation/social distancing in waiting zones. Example: access points, SPR players entrance, etc.

3.3. Accommodation

OC must ensure that the accommodation principles as shared in these Guidelines are applied throughout the arrival of the Team Delegations, FIVB Officials and Service Providers.

Team Delegation members are not to gather in any individual's room but shall instead use designated meeting rooms for the purpose of team meetings, socializing or any other team activities while still respecting the hygiene requirements.

Hand sanitizer will be provided at the entrance of collective areas, such as dining room, team meeting room, etc. and must be used by all individuals when entering the respective space.

Team Delegations members, FIVB Officials and Service Providers shall not leave the Hotel (except for competition-related activities or media-related/leisure activities scheduled in a safe environment) and shall avoid contact with public.

OC shall fulfil the requirements listed under Article [2.1](#) above in terms of hotel selection, check-in process, accommodation and catering requirements.

OC shall develop a daily activity schedule (competition and leisure) for all stakeholder groups of the event that will have to be adhered to by all groups. OC members&staff and Bus Drivers will also accommodate in the bubble hotels and they will be subject to VNL Bubble testing routine during the event as per other event participants.

3.3.1. Purchases, orders and deliveries

Team Delegations and any other participants are strongly encouraged to arrive with sufficient stocks of all required material and equipment. Should there still be a need to run essential errands, the OC will be exceptionally required to support and purchase materials on behalf of the Team Delegation and/or participants. Purchases shall be delivered to the hotel and sanitized prior to entering the bubble. The Team Delegation will be invoiced or required to reimburse all costs on site, subject to agreements with the OC.

Deliveries shall be managed on a case-by-case basis and in accordance with the Hotel rules but should be considered a risk factor for the bubble. As such, Team Delegation members are encouraged not to request any deliveries to the bubble, particularly food deliveries. Should this be allowed by the OC or the Hotel:

- The delivery person will be required to leave food outside the hotel;
- Hotel staff will sanitize the package wherever possible; and
- The individual shall come to entrance lobby and take delivery to the room (not in team dining area).

3.4. Transportation

OC must ensure that the transportation principles as shared in these Guidelines are applied throughout the arrival of the Team Delegations, FIVB Officials and Service Providers.

Tissues and containers with lids for the disposal of used tissues should be made available on all transportation vehicles.

All participants shall follow hygiene practices while using transportation vehicle:

- All participants shall wear FFP2 or surgical face mask during transportation;
- Use hand sanitizer provided when getting in a vehicle;
- Use disposable tissues or inside of the elbow when coughing or sneezing and
- Dispose the tissue using the lidded bins

Team Delegation members shall enter and leave the bus by a middle door. Buses will not be allowed to stop along the way to and from venue and hotel. Participants shall not request any such stops.

OC shall fulfil the requirements listed under Article [2.1](#) above in terms of transportation vehicles, cleaning requirements and scheduling of transportation.

3.5. Medical Operations

COVID Task Force will inspect the Hotel(s) and verify that all the measures stated in these Guidelines, the VNL Handbook, FIVB Medical Regulations and those defined by the local laws and regulations are implemented and followed.

At the Preliminary Inquiry, FIVB Technical Delegate shall confirm the amended match protocols of the competition to the participating teams. The COVID-19 rules and regulations applicable will be presented and explained “in general” by the FIVB Medical Delegate during the Preliminary Inquiry and, shall be explained “in details” during the Team Hygiene Officers Meeting.

The OC, in the coordination of COVID Task Force, shall ensure:

- the implementation of a strict access control system to avoid or minimize interactions between different stakeholder groups (specifically between Teams, officials, the OC, media, spectators, etc.).
- that all of the people entering the Competition Venue/Training Facilities are wearing FFP2 or surgical face masks at all times during their presence in said facilities.
- the collection of information on all of the people present at the Competition Venue and the other facilities. All of the people’s contact details shall be recorded in order to allow contact tracing and prompt communication to all individuals who may have been in contact with an individual who has tested positive.
- a temperature check is conducted every morning for every person entering the restaurant of the hotel for breakfast. Any temperatures above 37,5°C should be reported.
- a temperature check is conducted upon arrival at the Competition Venue/Training Facilities for every person entering said facilities. For spectators, (if allowed), a temperature check should take place prior to ticket check. Any temperatures above 37,5°C should be reported.
- that everyone entering the Competition Venue/Training Facilities and the competition control area shall disinfect their hands.

- that persons identified at the entrance of all facilities within the site who feel unwell (that have fever and cough or any COVID-19 symptoms) are immediately transferred to an isolation room and treated as per the local legislation.
- that disinfection and cleaning procedures are defined and implemented in the Competition Venue/Training Facilities areas, working positions/rooms and equipment.
- that updates on local legislation that might impact the competition are monitored and update the FIVB and FIVB Officials on site immediately.

3.5.1. Daily Health Checks / Testing Procedures

Health checks must be performed and documented on the dedicated FIVB Daily Triage Form on a daily basis by the Team Hygiene Officer of each team. As part of this check, the Team Hygiene Officer has to ensure that the body temperature of all Team Delegation members is checked each morning before leaving the room for the first time. Any doubts should be reported to the COVID Task Force using the Daily Triage Form.

[Click here to download the FIVB Daily Triage Form in pdf format](#)

[Click here to download the FIVB Daily Triage form in Excel format](#)

Only Team Delegation members and Hotel Employees will be subject to submit the Daily Triage Form. Hotel Employees shall get their temperature and other COVID-19 like symptoms checked every morning before entering hotel (daily triage).

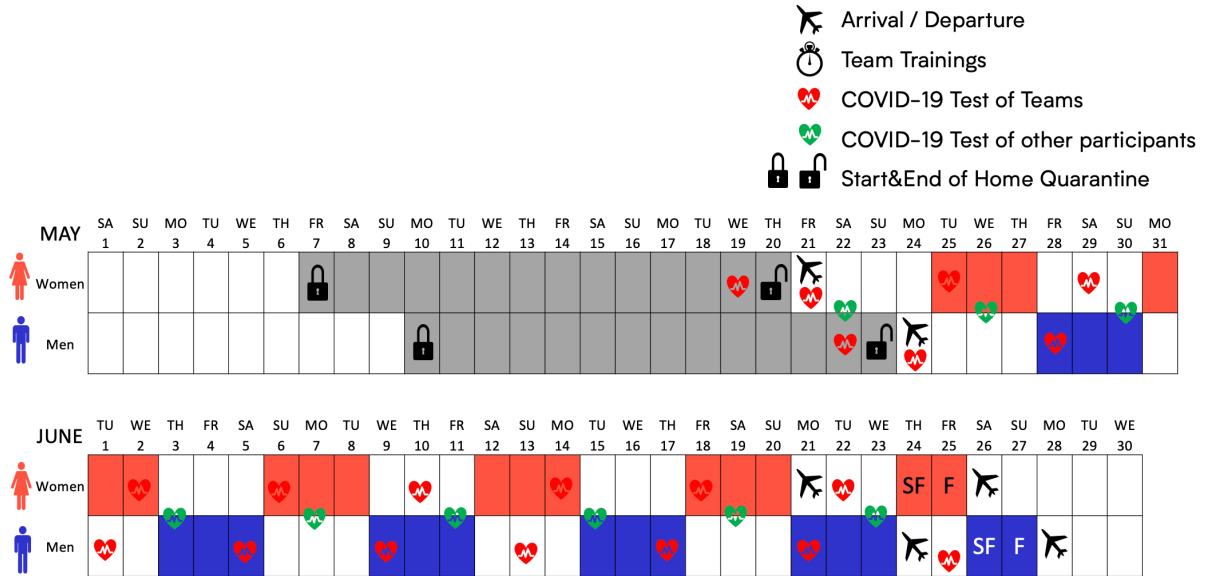
Other event participants (FIVB Officials, Service Providers, OC Staff, Team Family Members, etc.) are not required to submit a Daily Triage Form. These are subject to daily temperature measurement before entering the breakfast area, as outlined in section [3.5](#) above.

Daily briefings shall take place from the first day after the team's arrival. The purpose of the meeting is to present the current epidemiological situation of the competition. They shall be attended by Team Hygiene Officers and the COVID Task Force members. The Daily Triage Forms of each team, documenting the results of the health check, shall be collected and analysed at that time.

The OC shall be responsible for guaranteeing a suitable room for the abovementioned daily briefing.

3.5.2. COVID-19 Tests at Site

All Team Delegation members (including Team Family Members), FIVB Officials and Service Providers will be tested based on established testing protocol. The OC shall appoint a provider that will be responsible for COVID-19 sample collection and testing of all of the participants as identified by the FIVB. Overall testing calendar for the event will be as follows;



UPON ARRIVAL

Upon arrival, every participant will be subject to COVID-19 PCR test. The procedure upon arrival will be as follows:

- The participants will be transferred to the hotel,
- The testing agency will collect samples from each participant at the hotel, before checking in to the hotel room,
- Once the samples are collected, participants will be checked in to the room,
- Until the receipt of the test results (PCR test results will be confirmed in max twelve (12) hours), participants must stay in the room,
- Results shall be delivered to COVID Task Force, who will inform the individuals (Team Delegation members and Team Family members, FIVB Officials, Service Providers, OC Staff, etc.) by a phone call about the results and the next steps. If a Team Delegation member and/or Team Family member is positive, Team Hygiene Officer should also be informed by the COVID Task Force,
- Upon clearance, the accreditation of each participant will be delivered, and the person officially can move within the VNL Bubble.

For quarantine and isolation requirements in the event of positive cases, please refer to section [3.6.2](#) below.

DURING THE COMPETITION

During the competition, all participants will be subject to COVID-19 antigen test every four (4) days. The procedure for antigen testing will be as follows:

- The testing agency shall collect samples from each participant at the competition venue.
- Once the sample is collected from the participants, they should wait at the testing centre until the result is cleared – antigen test results will be confirmed in approximately twenty (20) minutes.
- Results of the test will directly be communicated to the participants. If the result is negative, the participants will be allowed to carry on their activities.

- If the result is doubtful or positive, an immediate PCR test will be conducted at the testing centre at the competition venue.
- Once the PCR test sample is collected, the participant will be transported to the hotel and will start isolation at the hotel room until the PCR test result is confirmed and in case of confirmed positive test, the participant will be required to continue the isolation.

For isolation requirements in case of positive cases, please refer to section [3.6.2](#) below.

BEFORE DEPARTURE

Before departure from VNL Bubble, every participant will be subject to COVID-19 PCR test. A Detailed procedure for pre-departure COVID-19 tests will be communicated to event participants during the Event.

OC STAFF & MEMBERS, HOTEL EMPLOYEES and BUS DRIVERS

OC staff and members, hotel employees and bus drivers in contact with event participants must have PCR tests done forty-eight (48) hours before the arrival of the participants. Only those who have tested negative are allowed to have contact with the event participants. Subsequent tests for the designated hotel staff should be performed at intervals adopted for other participants of the event, i.e. antigen test every four (4) days.

3.5.3. Individuals Who Have Recovered from COVID-19 & Procedures to Enter the VNL Bubble

Participants who have recovered from COVID-19 may be allowed to join the VNL Bubble provided that they are asymptomatic for at least fourteen (14) days prior to their travel to the VNL Bubble.

- For Players and Team Officials:
 - The respective individual's Team Hygiene Officer shall submit a complete list of vaccinated individuals with details of vaccine type and number of doses received.
 - The respective individual's Team Hygiene Officer shall submit a medical report (in English) issued by the national authorities to the COVID Task Force confirming the individual has recovered from COVID-19 in the last eight (8) months.
 - The respective individual must undertake an antigen test (in addition to the standard PCR test that must be done by all participants), and the result shall be submitted to the COVID Task Force by the Team Hygiene Officer.
 - COVID Task Force shall evaluate the case and determine whether to approve the admission of the individual to the VNL Bubble (admission to the plane/country as per section [2.2](#) above), in which case a confirmation will be sent to the Team Hygiene Officer via email.
- For FIVB Officials and Service Providers:
 - The respective individual (FIVB Officials, Service Providers, OC Staff, etc.) shall submit a medical report (in English) issued by the national authorities to the COVID Task Force confirming the individual has recovered from COVID-19.
 - The respective individual must undertake an antigen test (in addition to the standard PCR test that must be done by all participants), and the result shall be submitted to the COVID Task Force.

- COVID Task Force shall evaluate the case and determine whether to approve the admission of the individual to the VNL Bubble (admission to the plane/country as per section [2.3](#) above), in which case a confirmation will be sent to the respective individual via email.

3.5.4. Leaving Bubble for Medical Reasons & Return Protocol

In case a VNL Bubble participant needs medical treatment outside of the bubble, this will be permitted based on the following procedure:

- Pre-authorisation to leave for medical reasons will be granted by the COVID Task Force. In the event of need, the Team Hygiene Officer (on behalf of their players, team officials, family members) or the individual (FIVB Officials, Service Providers, OC Staff, etc.) should contact the COVID Task Force and request approval.
- The OC will secure appropriate means of transportation to the treatment facility.
- Once the treatment is complete, the participant should immediately return to the bubble with the same means of transportation arranged by the OC.
- Upon return, the participant will quarantine for three (3) days. An antigen test will be conducted on the third day of the quarantine. If the result of this test is also negative, the participant can re-enter the bubble.
- If the result of the antigen test is positive, isolation will be applied as per section [3.6.2](#).

During the transportation and treatment, all hygiene precautions (use of face masks, social distancing, etc.) must be strictly followed.

For the avoidance of doubt, the transportation costs will be covered by the OC, while the cost of the medical treatment shall be covered by the respective Team Delegation.

COVID Task Force may grant, on a case-by-case basis, an exemption from the 3-day quarantine upon return to the bubble. The exemption decision would consider the duration of the treatment, the medical assessment and epidemiological risk linked with the respective case.

3.6. COVID-19 Related Specific Competition Regulations During the Event

3.6.1. Team/Player Eligibility

Any player or Team Official who tests positive for COVID-19 and his/her roommate at the hotel (if any) shall immediately become ineligible to participate in the Event and should isolate/quarantine immediately for a duration defined by these guidelines. OC must arrange for additional COVID-19 tests for these individuals as outlined in section [3.6.2](#) below. Players/Team Officials who initially tested positive will remain ineligible until they complete the isolation period as outlined in section [3.6.2](#) below.

A Team will be allowed to participate in a match with minimum of six (6) players that have a confirmed negative COVID-19 test performed prior to the competition. If a Team does not have

six (6) players, it will be disqualified from the respective match and will lose with a forfeit of 3-0 (25-0, 25-0, 25-0).

Any player or Team Official who shows COVID-19 symptoms upon their arrival to the Competition Venue as well as his/her roommate at the hotel (if any) will be isolated in a designated area of the Competition Venue and will become ineligible to participate in the upcoming match or promotional activity.

3.6.2. COVID-19 Protocol on Site

Event participants will be subject to the following isolation/quarantine steps if any of the participants are diagnosed with COVID-19:

If tested positive:

- The individual shall be isolated in a single room for up to ten (10) days (longer if necessary) and perform a PCR test on 10th day. If the test result is negative, the person can be allowed to move within the VNL Bubble at the end of this isolation period. If the PCR test is positive, additional four (4) days of isolation will be required and the PCR test procedure will be repeated at the end of this duration.

As a general principle, the person should be symptom-free for at least two (2) days prior to he or she being allowed to move within the VNL Bubble. Other situations require individual decisions undertaken by COVID Task Force/Local Authorities.

If the individual who has tested positive has a roommate:

- the roommate one of the person who tested positive, who is not vaccinated and hasn't been infected with COVID-19 in the previous eight (8) months, will be quarantined in a single room for fourteen (14) days and be subject to PCR tests on the 5th, 10th and 13th days. If all these test results are negative, the person can be released to move within the VNL Bubble on the 14th day.
- if the roommate is vaccinated or has recovered from COVID-19 in the last eight (8) months, he/she will be allowed to move within the VNL Bubble, but will be subject to antigen test every two (2) days for up to fourteen (14) days.
- The decisions regarding quarantine times and necessary tests should be made on a case-by-case basis by the COVID Task Force/Local Authorities.

DEFINITION of CLOSE CONTACT and SUBSEQUENT PROCEDURES

- For purposes of these Guidelines, "close contact" shall mean being within 1.5 meters of a COVID-19 infected person for more than fifteen (15) minutes (if in open space) or for more than between five (5) to ten (10) minutes (if in closed space) without face mask or, alternatively, having direct physical contact,
- In the event that teams are occupying double rooms in the hotel, the initial quarantine shall be limited to the roommate of the individual who has tested positive and shall not include the whole team. However, close contacts with the individual who has tested positive may also be subsequently subject to quarantine. If a close contact with a COVID-19 positive case is detected, the decision on the subsequent procedures shall be taken by the COVID Task Force.

PROCEDURES for INDIVIDUALS WHO DEVELOP SYMPTOMS

- **Step 1:** First, an antigen test shall be performed on all participants who have developed any COVID-19 symptoms as well as in any situations in which there are reasonable grounds to believe that a participant has had or does have COVID-19 (e.g. cases of COVID-19 without symptoms).
- **Step 2:** Upon a negative result, a PCR test shall then be performed as a more sensitive test, and the concerned participant shall be isolated until the respective result is obtained. Until the outset to the final PCR test result, said person shall be considered as potentially infected.
- If both test results are negative, the individual can return to the Event.
- If the test comes back positive, the abovementioned isolation requirements shall apply.

3.6.3. Player Replacement

Team Delegations will be allowed to replace players once during the VNL 2021 Bubble. For detailed regulations and timelines of such replacement, please refer to the VNL Handbook Chapter 1 – Competition Formula & SCR.

The replacement players will be subject to the following procedure;

- undertake a PCR test eight (8) days (calculated from the time of the test) prior to the departure to the event. A negative test result certificate (in English) must be submitted to the COVID Task Force by the Team Hygiene Officer,
- undertake a PCR test forty-eight (48) hours (calculated from the time of the test) prior to the departure to the event. A negative test result certificate (in English) must be submitted to the COVID Task Force prior to the said departure by the Team Hygiene Officer,
- a PCR test effected upon arrival,
- a three-day quarantine in a hotel other than that of the Team Delegation and without joining the Team’s activity,
- a PCR test on day three of the quarantine, and,
- finally, upon negative result of the two PCR tests, players will be cleared to join the Team’s activities as of the official replacement date.
- He/she is vaccinated or recovered from COVID-19 in the last eight (8) months and has a negative PCR test done in the last forty-eight (48) hours.

In order to protect the other players already in the bubble, it is also strongly recommended that the replacement players to be self-quarantined in their own homes eight (8) days prior to travel.

3.6.4. Cost Attribution

It is inevitable that certain costs arise due to the extensive measures taken to address the pandemic and reduce the risk. Those costs will be shared among the stakeholders as per the following matrix:

What?	For whom?	Responsible for	Explanations
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Insurance	Team Delegation Members	Respective National Federation	
	FIVB Officials and Staff	FIVB	
	Service Providers	Respective Service Provider	
	OC Staff, NTOs	OC/National Federation	
	Volunteers	Own	
	FIVB Invited Media	Own	
COVID-19 PCR tests before first travel	Team Delegation Members	Respective National Federation	
	FIVB Officials and Staff	FIVB	
	Service Providers	Respective Service Provider	
	FIVB Invited Media	Own	
COVID-19 Tests at competition site	Team Delegation Members	Respective National Federation	
	FIVB Officials and Staff	OC	
	Service Providers	OC	
	OC Staff, NTOs	OC	
	Volunteers	OC	
	FIVB Invited Media	OC	
Additional COVID-19 Test at each competition site due to positive result of routine test	Team Delegation Members	Respective National Federation	
	FIVB Officials and Staff	FIVB	
	Service Providers	Respective Service Provider	
	OC Staff, NTOs	TBC	
	Volunteers	TBC	
	FIVB Invited Media	TBC	
Prolonged stay of an individual at a competition site extending beyond the competition dates due to local quarantine legislation	Team Delegation Members	Respective National Federation	An individual may not be allowed to leave the country in the event of a recent positive test result. In such case, all incurred costs (accommodation, transportation, hospitalisation, etc.) will be covered as per this matrix.
	FIVB Officials and Staff	FIVB	
	Service Providers	Respective Service Provider	

3.7. Media

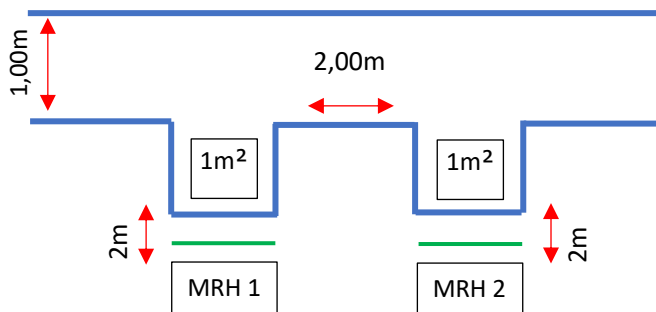
Members of media shall wear FFP2 or surgical face masks and adhere to hygiene requirements at all times at the Competition Venue.

Members of the general media (excluding right holders, host broadcasters and photographers) will not be allowed within the competition venue. The FIVB Digital Department will set up a virtual mixed zone for general members of the media.

There will be a dedicated space — with two (2) booths after the Media Rights Holder mixed zone — separate from the Media Rights Holder mixed zone where other athletes will be interviewed for the virtual mixed zone. Within this second mixed zone, there will be two (2) camera crews and two (2) interviewers. All FIVB staff shall wear a FFP2 or surgical face mask and remain at a minimum distance of 2m from the athletes. There will be a rope to separate the athlete from the camera crew and the interviewers — a minimum of 2m should separate the athletes from the camera crew and the interviewer.

Usual registration process for accreditation to be implemented and followed.

The mixed zone located just at the exit of the FOP should be large enough to allow one corridor for athletes to walk straight to the changing room (or second separate mixed zone), and shall include spaces off the corridor for athletes interviewed by the Media Rights Holders and Host Broadcaster. All Media Rights Holders and Host Broadcaster crew members shall always wear a FFP2 or surgical face mask in the mixed zone. All Players shall also wear a FFP2 or surgical face mask in the mixed zone.



Zoning for TV, Press and Photographers shall be defined to minimise contact. Maximum number of media rights holders shall be defined based on the total capacity of the Press Tribune and local recommendations in a manner that ensures that social distancing is respected at all times.

General photographers will not be allowed to attend the event.

3.8. FIVB TV Coordination Agency

FIVB TV Coordination Agency personnel must observe hygiene requirements (social distance, FFP2 or surgical face mask, hand washing). During the pre-competition period prior to travel to the VNL Bubble Site, all TV Coordination Agency personnel are strongly recommended to have a fourteen (14) day relative isolation. This relative isolation can mean living in normal residences with social contact restrictions.

Individuals may resume their professional work during this period; however, utmost attention must be paid to hygiene principles.

FIVB TV Coordination Agency personnel, regardless of the zone(s) in which they perform their duties, must always wear FFP2 or surgical face wear masks at the Competition Venue.

Production Trucks, OB Van, Satellite Uplink Truck must be equipped with disinfection kits, with minimum 1.5m distance between individuals who should always wear a FFP2 or surgical face mask.

Plexiglass sheets can alternatively be installed between each work position. Hygiene requirements must be displayed in the English and local languages inside all vehicles.

Closed spaces must be aired out for ten (10) minutes three to four times during operation days.

Equipment surfaces and door handles must be cleaned with a surface disinfectant before production begins and after breakdown.

On-Court FIVB TV Coordination Agency personnel are responsible for disinfecting his/her material. They must wear a FFP2 or surgical face mask anytime they are inside the Competition Venue. They must stay by their equipment only when strictly necessary, otherwise they must be away from the playing court. Camera and microphone operators may not be closer than 1.5m from any other individual and may not move from their fixed position during the game. Camera and microphone operators are prohibited from approaching the team bench.

4. After the Event

All of the individuals who have developed symptoms after the competition should isolate themselves, seek medical assistance, and inform the FIVB and the relevant public health authorities about their potential exposure, both in the country where the competition was held and upon returning to the country of residence in order to activate the relevant procedures of contact tracing.

The OC shall liaise with public health authorities and facilitate the sharing of information about all symptomatic participants (such as their itineraries, contact information, visa procedures, hotel bookings).

5. References

2020-21 Euroleague Basketball Health & Safety Protocols 201019 v1.3

UEFA Return to Play Protocol v2

CEV Hygiene Guidelines – Volleyball Specifications

FIBA COVID-19 Protocol for FIBA Official National Team and Club Competitions v3

FIVB Medical Commission COVID-19 Guidelines for FIVB-sanctioned Volleyball Competitions

Version: February 01, 2021