



COVID-19 Medical Precaution Plan Egypt 2021

Questions & Answers – 02.12.2020



Which medical tests must be conducted by the players prior to the World Championship? Is there a deadline to submit the examination results to IHF and Medical Commission?

All players should be systematically examined (pre-competition medical assessment, blood picture, electrocardiogram (ECG), echocardiogram, chest X-ray). If a team has such medical files being continuously updated, it is not necessary to repeat the medical assessment. If a team does not yet have such medical files, the mentioned medical assessment must be carried out prior to the training camp. The results of the pre-competition medical assessment shall be communicated to the IHF Head Office (email: ihf.office@ihf.info) and the Medical Commission Coordinator, Dr Radwa Sarhan (email: Rhandball@yahoo.com), whose team consists of specialists in different fields. The results shall be submitted prior to the final training camp.

When does the communication start between the teams' COVID-19 officers (appointed by the Medical Commission) and the National Federations?

A COVID-19 officer will be assigned to each team upon arrival at the airport. Prior to the teams' arrival, the Medical Commission Coordinator, Dr Radwa Sarhan (email: Rhandball@yahoo.com), will be available for any queries. A copy of all communication should be sent to the IHF Head Office (email: ihf.office@ihf.info).



May the team doctor also act as the National Federation’s medically trained hygiene officer (COVID-19 officer)? Is there a deadline to hire the hygiene officer?

Yes, the team doctor may also act as hygiene officer provided that the team doctor is physician. The contact information of the hygiene officer shall be communicated to the IHF Head Office (email: ihf.office@ihf.info) and the Medical Commission Coordinator, Dr Radwa Sarhan (email: Rhandball@yahoo.com). The hygiene officer should be hired prior to the final training camp (if not done before).

How often and in which form do test results need to be provided during the NFs’ preparation before the World Championship?

The National Federation shall ensure that the national team is within a bubble at least three days before arrival to Egypt. A PCR test shall be carried out on the same day of the closed training camp in case the test results are announced shortly and before accommodating the team. PCR tests shall be carried out every 72 hours. All test results shall be communicated to the IHF Head Office (email: ihf.office@ihf.info) and the Medical Commission Coordinator, Dr Radwa Sarhan (email: Rhandball@yahoo.com).

In case of friendly matches, the other teams must be either within the same bubble or within their own bubble.

What are the requirements for the team officials (coaches, physiotherapists, doctors, etc.) in terms of testing?

The same testing procedure applied for the players shall also be followed by the team officials.



How will the test results from the different NFs be examined?

The Medical Commission will examine the results received and communicate with the National Federations' hygiene officers in case of any doubts. Rapid antigen tests will be carried out at Cairo and Alexandria airports while PCR tests will be conducted at the hotels upon arrival.

What happens if a person who recovered from COVID-19 still obtains positive PCR test results even after several months?

It is possible that after a COVID-19 infection the PCR test continues to be positive for more than three months because of dead virus particles. Two groups of patients need to be defined, namely asymptomatic patients and symptomatic patients. Asymptomatic patients are free from viral infection after 10 to 14 days. Athletes, however, must undergo a chest assessment by X-ray chest or CT chest without contrast as well as an echocardiogram for the myocardium before being allowed to return to the field of play.

Symptomatic patients need further investigation. They are only allowed to return to their regular activities after complete disappearance of the symptoms for up to 14 days. In addition, some further laboratory tests are required, especially the complete blood picture, CRP, D-dimer. Furthermore, the pulmonary function and the myocardial function must be examined.

If asymptomatic or symptomatic patients have a positive test, the stakeholders concerned must wait until they have a negative PCR test.

Travelling to Egypt is only allowed with a negative PCR test carried out within 72 hours before the arrival date.



When must the stakeholders involved in the World Championship enter the bubble?

All stakeholders travelling to Egypt must isolate themselves from the date of the PCR test (within 72 hours before the arrival date) until arrival to Egypt. Afterwards, they will directly enter the bubble (within three days before the start of the championship).

Considering the incubation period, isn't it risky to enter the bubble three days prior to the World Championship?

Yes, therefore all stakeholders travelling to Egypt must isolate themselves from the date of the PCR test (within 72 hours before the arrival date) until arrival to Egypt, which will further reduce the risk of infection, taking into account that an infection-free environment cannot be guaranteed.

How many bubbles will be formed?

It will be one overall bubble concept applicable in different places (hotels and arenas).

Is it allowed to transfer from one bubble to another? For example, will stakeholders be allowed to visit different arenas?

Whoever is part of the overall bubble concept may transfer from one bubble to another, i.e. to visit all hotels and arenas.



Is it possible to enter the bubble after the beginning of the World Championship?

Yes, provided that all the conditions of entering the bubble are respected by the stakeholder concerned.

Do the medical officers or staff need to have any kind of medical education or professional qualification?

All COVID-19 and medical officers are physicians hired by the Egyptian Ministry of Health and Population in coordination with the Medical Commission.

Is all PCR testing done by sufficiently qualified medical staff?

The medical teams will be composed of physicians hired by the Egyptian Ministry of Health and Population in coordination with the Medical Commission. The PCR tests will be conducted by the Central Public Health Laboratories accredited by the Egyptian Accreditation Council (EGAC) in compliance with the requirements of ISO 15189:2012. Any positive case shall be confirmed by a second laboratory (audit laboratory).



How will the PCR test routine every 72 hours work?

A timetable for the tests will be provided to all stakeholders prior to arrival. Each stakeholder shall have the place, date and time of each test.

What is the timeframe for test results?

The PCR test result shall be announced within two hours. In the event of a positive case, the audit laboratory shall confirm the positive test result within two hours.

Which procedure will be applied if a stakeholder is tested positive?

If any team member tested positive, any direct contact person, the whole team delegation concerned as well as the whole delegation of the team against which they have played since the last negative PCR test, including the IHF nominees officiating the match concerned, will be tested.

Asymptomatic confirmed cases will be isolated in the COVID-19 isolation room at the hotel until the test result of the audit laboratory has been issued. Symptomatic confirmed cases are transferred to the referral isolation sector for treatment. The stakeholders concerned may leave the referral isolation sector after two negative PCR tests within 72 hours. All stakeholders may directly return to their regular activities except for players and referees who may return to the field of play between 10 and 14 days from the date of infection.



Is it possible to bring a substitute for a confirmed positive team member?

Yes, please refer to the COVID-19-Related Regulations (Annex 2 of the COVID-19 Medical Precaution Plan).

How long do stakeholders who were in direct contact with a positive case have to be isolated?

Stakeholders who were in direct contact with a positive case must be tested and isolated until the test result is issued.

What does “direct contact” mean?

“Direct contact” shall be defined as follows:

- Face-to-face contact with a confirmed case within 1 metre and for more than 15 minutes without using proper personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Direct physical contact with a confirmed case.

Will local transportation be organised by the Organising Committee?

The Organising Committee shall provide local transportation (within the bubble concept) for each stakeholder as per the Bid and Event Manual.



What is the catering and meals concept for the stakeholders?

Catering in hotels will be open buffet with self-service. No meals are allowed in the changing rooms. Furthermore, no meals are served in the VIP area of the arena. Packed meals are available for IHF nominees and the TV production crew in their designated room/area in the arena. Packed snacks for the teams are available in the bus.

Will the arenas have different zones?

Each arena will contain a bubble zone which is exclusively reserved for stakeholders entering the bubble without any external contact within three days before and throughout the event. The VIP area will be accessible only with a negative PCR test carried out within 72 hours before. For further details, please refer to the zone graphics of the four arenas, which are available under the following link: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/whozdplfng9zun/AABuw2-xQpOzvazjDCG1ZB9ca?dl=0>.

What are the planned players' entrance procedures and activities after the end of each match?

In general the standard procedure before and after the match will be applied. However, the teams shall walk in after each other with a distance of 1.5 metres. Athletes shall maintain distance during the presentation but have the right to close this gap during the national anthem. All other procedures shall remain the same, with the exception that no awarding of the Player of the Match will take place and thus no line-up is done after the match.



Will plexiglass dividers be required between camera operator positions?

Due to the fact that the main camera position will be on the media tribune, only media representatives within the bubble are allowed to enter this area. Consequently, installing plexiglass dividers is not required.

How many broadcasting staff members are allowed to be inside the arena?

The Organising Committee and the IHF shall define the number of broadcasting staff members allowed to be inside the arena.

Will camera operators be allowed to operate in the bubble zone?

Camera operators within the bubble will be allowed to move within the bubble zone as stated on their accreditation.

Will the use of microphone booms for team time-outs be allowed?

Yes, provided that the person concerned is within the bubble.



Will the position of a bench reporter be allowed?

Yes, provided that the person concerned is within the bubble.

Will the use of steadicams be allowed?

All TV crew representatives within the bubble will be allowed to move within the bubble zone.

Will broadcasters be allowed to attend the press conferences with their own cameras?

It depends on the number of cameras and the size of the room. In general, all press conferences will be held virtually.

Will Mixed Zones be organised?

Mixed Zones will be organised. Only media representatives within the bubble are allowed to enter the Mixed Zone.



Do the interviewers in Flash Zone and Mixed Zone have to wear a face mask?

Yes, interviewers must wear a face mask at all times.

In case any athletes are tested positive upon departure of the delegations after the World Championship, who will take care of them and who will cover the related costs?

In the event of any positive case prior to the end of the World Championship, the infected person will be isolated until his/her recovery before allowing him/her to depart. All costs related to the isolation will be covered by the Organising Committee except for the changed flight ticket which must be covered by the National Federation concerned. The IHF and the Organising Committee will act as mediator between the infected person and the medical staff.