

Special Olympics New York COVID Protocol Guidance

January 2023

Special Olympics International (SOI) updated protocol in December of 2022. These SOI protocol remain our operational standard with the addition of the below listed guidance.

Required Form Changes:

- COVID Code of Conduct and Risk Form is discontinued. Participants will no longer be required to complete the Code of Conduct and Risk form.

SOI Protocol states: *“U.S. Only: Athletes, Coaches, Unified partners, Officials, Volunteers (excluding fundraising and school-based activities) complete Communicable Disease Waiver. All Programs: Code of Conduct and Risk Form optional.”*

- Communicable Disease Waiver remains a required form.

Additional Operational Guidance:

Verbal Health Checks:

Verbal Health Checks are simple and will be required prior to training, competition and travel and program gathering. Prior to the commencement of any Special Olympics program gathering, Coaches will complete a verbal check with athlete and coach participants to confirm good health status.

Coaches will ask and confirm the following:

- Have you had symptoms of a cold or flu?
Typical Symptoms: [Fever, Chills, Cough, Sore Throat, Congestion, Body Aches, Upset Stomach]
- Athlete and Coach participants with active cold or flu symptoms cannot participate or travel.
- Athlete and Coach participants must be free of cold & flu symptoms for 24 to 72 hours prior to gathering.
 - If an Athlete or Coach is symptom free for at least 72 hours prior to a gathering, they may participate.
 - If an Athlete or Coach is symptom free for 24 hours prior to a gathering and can demonstrate a negative “at home” COVID test, they may participate.