



GOVERNMENT OF BERMUDA
Ministry of Youth, Culture and Sport

To: National Sports Governing Bodies,

COVID-19 Testing and Return to Play Guidance

The Ministry of Youth, Culture and Sport requests that NSGBs send this communication to all clubs and athletes registered with them.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The public is aware of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has impacted all aspects of Bermudian life. Understanding the importance of sport, the Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation collaborated with the Association of National Sports Governing Bodies (ANSGB) to develop the *Return to Play Guidance* in order for sports to resume in a phased manner, through four stages.

SALIVA TESTING

Contact sports bring a higher risk of COVID-19 transmission, therefore the Government requires adults wishing to participate in Stage 3 and 4 sports (contact training and competitive play) to undertake a COVID-19 saliva test and repeat every 28 – 30 days. Following consultation, the Government strongly recommends that young persons and children aged 11 to 17 also be tested. Individual clubs and NSGBs may determine whether to require it. Children aged 10 and younger can be encouraged to test also.

PURPOSE

Controlling COVID-19 spread is an ongoing effort. As a country, we cannot let our guard down. Testing provides an additional layer of protection for individuals and for the community.

The purpose of the sports COVID-19 screening test is to identify persons who are infected with the SARS CoV-2 (COVID 19) virus in Bermuda to ensure proper isolation and case management. If the saliva test is positive, a nasopharyngeal swab will be taken to confirm diagnosis. A negative test offers greater safety for all players.

PROCESS

The saliva test is a non-invasive test that is easy to self-administer. There are no health risks associated with the test. It is provided free of charge by the Government of Bermuda.

Do not eat, drink, chew gum or smoke for 30 minutes prior to testing, as it can compromise the sample.

A video link and written instructions will be provided to demonstrate how to use kit. Athletes must register to take the test so their kit can be prepared and they can receive their results. Register at: <https://workers.resqwest.com/web/> (click “Check Availability” and select your sport)

CONFIDENTIALITY AND PRIVACY

All of the information gathered to take this screening test will be kept confidential. Only the patient, the Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit and authorized officers will know the results. In the event of a positive test result, the patient’s physician will also be informed.

If a sample is positive, the patient’s physician or the Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit will be in touch with the patient to communicate the result and provide guidance on isolation, management and testing.

The biological samples taken will be destroyed immediately after conclusion of tests.

CONTACT

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FAQ for Saliva COVID-19 Testing for Contact Sports

1. Do I have to be tested?

- For adults (18+) it is mandatory in order to participate in recreational, semi-professional and adult contact sports
- For children (aged 11 - 17) it is strongly recommended. Individual clubs and NSGBs may determine whether to require it
- Younger children can be encouraged to test

2. How often do contact sports have to be tested?

- To commence stage 3 (contact training) of the return to play guidance, and every 28-30 days during stage 4
- Government will advise how long the testing will continue based on Bermuda's status managing the pandemic

3. How long does it take to do the saliva COVID-19 test?

- It takes a maximum of 10 minutes to do the test
- A document with video attached on how to use the test will be provided

4. Where can you take the saliva test?

- You must register for a test at: <https://workers.resqwest.com/web/> Click "Check Availability" and select your sport
- Once registered, arrangements can be made through the Department of Youth, Sport & Recreation for each sport/club/team to take the test
- Only those registered/signed up via the health link provided can take the test
- A testing station will be provided at scheduled times only. The location will vary by NSGB/Club/Team

5. What are the pretesting instructions?

- Do not eat, drink, chew gum or smoke 30 minutes prior to testing

6. Who will carry out the testing?

- Each individual will do their own test
- Department of Youth, Sports & Recreation will only provide the test kits to athletes and officials

7. How will results be communicated?

- Negative results are emailed to individuals within 3 days
- Positive results are emailed to the individual's doctor and the Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit within 3 days; who communicate with the individual

8. Will the saliva COVID-19 test be used for any other purpose (DNA, drugs)?

- No. The samples cannot be used for anything other than testing if a person has COVID-19 and contact tracing positive cases

9. Can you play contact sports without taking a saliva COVID-19 test?

- Adults cannot. Each contact sport will only be allowed to move to Stage 4 of the return to play guidance after testing is completed

10. Do I need to get tested for each sport I participate in?

- No only 1 test per person/athlete/official
- However you should sign up on the health link for each sport for the purposes of securing a kit, getting your results and contact tracing



Department of Youth, Sport & Recreation

Sports Procedural Guideline for Saliva COVID-19 Testing

Step 1 Signing Up for COVID-19 Testing:

- Individuals sign up for testing using link provided from Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation (DYSR) (<https://workers.resqwest.com/web/> click “Check Availability” and select your sport)
- There will be a drop down box for each sport/club/team/athletes
- Department of Health will create a personal testing kit for each individual
- Only those individuals that sign up will receive testing kits

Step 2 Collecting COVID19 Testing Kits:

- Department of Health will deliver testing kits to DYSR
- DYSR will facilitate onsite saliva test center at a pre-determined location
- Sports/Clubs/Teams/Athletes will come to the pre-determined to take COVID-19 Test at scheduled date/time for each Sport/Club/Team/Athlete

Step 3 Using COVID-19 Saliva Testing Kits:

- A video link and written guideline will be provided to demonstrate how to use kit
- All testing will be conducted and returned immediately on site at the pre-determined location

4 Returning COVID19 Test

- DYSR will return test to Department of Health
- Negative results will be emailed to individual
- Positive results will be emailed to individual’s Doctor

* Please be informed that the procedural guidance will be subject to evolve to collectively determine best practices