

Play! Pokémon COVID-19 Protocols

ENGLISH VERSION

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Contents

- 1 Using This Document..... 3
- 2 Local Events..... 3
 - 2.1 Introduction..... 3
 - 2.2 Local Event COVID-19 Recommendations 3
- 3 Premier Events 4
 - 3.1 Introduction..... 4
 - 3.2 Premier Event COVID-19 Requirements 5
 - 3.3 Premier Event COVID-19 Processes 5
- 4 FAQ..... 6

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.

2 Local Events

2.1 Introduction

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

- Are held in person rather than digitally, mostly in approved League venues.
- Are hosted by Professors rather than The Pokémon Company International (TPCi) staff or contractors.
- Do not award Championship Points.

We have developed recommended safety guidelines for Local Events in an effort to keep players and event staff healthy and safe. These recommendations are subject to change at any time. All Local Events must adhere to their applicable local laws and regulations pertaining to COVID-19, but in addition, we encourage stores to follow the recommended safety guidelines below.

To find out if Play! Pokémon programs are reopening in your market, please check this [page](#).

2.2 Local Event COVID-19 Recommendations

- Please consider posting signs at each public entrance in clear view of your clientele. Effective signs should:
 - 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) should wear appropriate face masks when in close proximity to others.

- Players should sanitize their hands prior to facing new opponents. Players may forgo the traditional pre-game handshake. We strongly recommend that the venue make hand sanitizer available for players.
 - As a precaution, each match may be separated by at least 3 feet (1 m) from other matches, spectators, or other places where people may congregate.
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3 Premier Events

3.1 Introduction

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

- Regional Championships
- International Championships
- World Championships
- Other events listed on www.pokemon.com that are operating as Premier Events per these protocols

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

It is the responsibility of all participating attendees and/or their parent or guardian to:

- Fully understand all COVID-19 requirements and processes detailed below.
- Ensure you have read and reviewed the current COVID-19 policy prior to your attendance at any event.
- Arrive at Premier Events prepared to comply with all of our COVID-19 requirements and processes detailed below for the duration of the event.

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.

3.2 Premier Event COVID-19 Requirements

- 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.
- Mandatory masking will no longer be required at all Premier Events; however, **TPCi reserves the right to implement a mandatory masking requirement for any event and on short notice, if necessary.** If an event does require mandatory masking, we will do our best to communicate that to all attendees; however, it is your responsibility to confirm you have read and understood the current COVID-19 policy prior to your arrival at an event.
- For events that implement mandatory masking, the following requirements apply:
 - Attendees and staff must wear an acceptable face mask at all times during the event unless actively eating or drinking while in designated areas. For details on what is considered an acceptable mask, please see our FAQ below.
 - Attendees may not eat food during events unless they are eating in a designated eating area.
 - 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 and may forgo the traditional pre-game handshake.
- Where applicable, 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 noncompliance.
- Premier Events must have a licensed healthcare professional on site.

3.3 Premier Event COVID-19 Check-In Information

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

- Review healthcare signage at the event.
- Have security conduct a bag check.
- Complete registration and check-in.

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, and to organize events only at venues that are compliant.
- Store Owners & Venue Staff: You are also responsible for enforcing these requirements.
- 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. Can our Local Event venue impose rules that are stricter than those listed here? (Example: Vaccination documentation requirements, masking 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. Why have you removed the mandatory vaccination and masking requirements?

While we strongly recommend that all attendees, volunteers, and organizers continue to follow the protocols issued by appropriate health agencies with regards to vaccinations and masking, a number of factors, including increasing vaccination rates and changes to local laws, have led us to making these changes.

The safety and well-being of our community remains our top priority, and we reserve the right to make changes to this policy to that end.

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 when required?

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 Premier 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 fit.
 - Material can be folded or tucked to improve 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 cannot have:
 - Gaps around the sides of the face or nose.
 - Exhalation valves, vents, or other openings.
 - 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 and ensure you have read and understood the most current policy prior to your attendance at any event.

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](#).