

***NS Public Health Guidelines and Safe Sport Principles must be followed at all times and take precedence over anything found in this document.***

<b>Document Name</b> <b>RETURN TO PLAY DOCUMENT</b>		<b>Date of Approval</b> <b>06/02/2020</b>	<b>Activation Date</b> <b>06/05/2020</b>
<b>Approved By</b> GNS Board of Directors	<b>Linking To</b> 1. Covid-19 requirements		<b>Replacing Previous Version</b> Final v.8 October 1, 2020
<b>Review Cycle</b> Reviewed regularly by the GNS Board of Directors. Gymnastics Nova Scotia will review any recommended revisions by Public Health and update this document accordingly.			
<b>DOCUMENT VISIBILITY</b> <b>THIS DOCUMENT MUST BE DISPLAYED IN A HIGH TRAFFIC AREA OF ALL GNS CLUBS</b>			

**Gymnastics NS Stages of Returning to Training**

As the Covid-19 Pandemic numbers level off and eventually decline, the gymnastics community will return to training. Our priority, first and foremost, must be the health and safety of our athletes and our coaches. It is likely that the return to operations will be a staged process. When these stages begin, the gymnastics community (including all Coaches, Athletes and their families) will be asked to self-identify if they believe they might be at risk of having the Covid-19 virus. If they believe they have been exposed, they will be asked:

- 1) to remain at home for two weeks or
- 2) if they have been tested and the result for the presence of the virus is negative they can return

**Stage 1 – June 5, 2020**

**Competitive Athletes will return to training and possible return of seasonal camps** – Competitive athletes are generally older and more structured in their training. It should be easier to manage Covid-19 reduction training protocols with them. Coaches will be aware that early training requirements will be similar to returning after summer break and that athlete mental health may need to be monitored.

**Stage 2 – July 6, 2020**

**Return to the gym for recreational programming** – This will be subject to the direction of the NS Public Health. It is expected competitive athletes will still be training. Protocols will still be in effect as directed in stage 1 unless there have been new recommendations from Nova Scotia Public Health.

**Stage 3**

**Return to a new normal for training gymnastics** – Many of the protocols indicated below will be required to remain in place as the new normal.

Principles	Protocols, Ideas & Examples
<p><b>Member Awareness</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inform members of new protocols through email, club website, member receipts, in house telephone communications</li> <li>• Use assumption of risk agreements and include specific wording relating to insurance coverage for COVID-19 claims exclusion and their assumption of the related risks with COVID-19</li> <li>• Use a declaration form to be executed by all people attending your facility to declare their understanding of COVID as well as their responsibility to self regulate</li> <li>• Complete Club Declaration of Compliance form and submit to GNS</li> <li>• Post NS Government approved handwashing and physical distancing protocols in high traffic area eg. main entrance door, bathrooms</li> <li>• Consider including COVID in your club refund policy</li> </ul>
<p><b>Entering &amp; Exit Facility</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure the physical distancing requirements of 2 metres are met</li> <li>• Place distancing lines outside facility for parents &amp; gymnasts to line up before and after entering</li> <li>• Staff member monitors the gymnasts inside the facility and ensure hands are properly cleaned</li> <li>• Maximum of one parent/gymnast inside facility.</li> <li>• Bleachers need to be marked off where people are allowed to sit.</li> <li>• Create a separate entrance and exit, if possible</li> <li>• Must sanitize hands when entering facility</li> <li>• Anyone feeling unwell as per Appendix B, MUST STAY HOME</li> <li>• Implement tracking of all members entering &amp; exiting the facility</li> </ul>
<p><b>Facility Safeguarding</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure the physical distancing requirements of 2 metres are met</li> <li>• Heightened cleaning of entire facility, especially high traffic areas (eg. entrance, washrooms, etc.)</li> <li>• Must provide hand sanitizing or handwashing stations throughout the facility where possible. Athletes may require a schedule to wash and/or sanitize hands</li> <li>• Limit the number of athletes permitted in the athlete changing room/washroom at one time to ensure physical distancing requirements are followed</li> <li>• Clean/sanitize gymnastics equipment and document this. Equipment must be cleaned and sanitized after each training session (if possible) and at the end of each day Please refer to the 2 guideline sections in Appendix A <i>Cleaning and Disinfecting public spaces and Approved Cleaning Products</i></li> <li>• Remove or cover any equipment that cannot be cleaned</li> <li>• Play structures should be closed</li> <li>• Remove self-serve vending machines and/or food sales. Cafe areas should be closed as not appropriate places to sit.</li> <li>• There should not be any public water fountains in the gym that athletes can drink directly from. Gymnasts will provide their own water and there will be no sharing. Water filling stations are allowed.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where possible, limit and/or avoid the shared use of equipment to limit the number of people touching the same surface</li> <li>• Use of personal chalk containers rather than open chalk bucket (each athlete should be supplied with their own chalk and instructed not to share) and wash hands after using equipment</li> <li>• Athletes are not permitted to share personal training equipment (eg. chalk, grips, slippers, wrist bands, wrist supports, ankle braces, tape, etc.)</li> <li>• Athletes should only leave limited personal items or equipment at the facility</li> <li>• Wearing masks for athletes is <b>mandatory</b> while not in the field of play ie. required going in and out of the facility but not while training in the gym</li> <li>• Once classes are over for the day and all athletes have left, all surfaces should be cleaned and disinfected (mats, floors, counters, bathrooms) (see Appendix A).</li> <li>• Ensure that all cleaning products are authorized disinfectants against SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 (see Appendix A)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Staff and Coaching Management</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure the physical distancing requirements of the 2 metres are met</li> <li>• Clubs need to pass along information to their employees regarding their rights, risks and responsibilities as they relate to this public health emergency</li> <li>• Prior to coming to work (daily), staff be required to screen via self-assessment tool, report to their designated supervisor to present and discuss their assessment, receive a sticker for their name tag indicating they have been screened (Appendix B – NS medical general questions)</li> <li>• Staff are required to sanitize/wash hands between rotations</li> <li>• <b>Coaches are encouraged to use minimal spotting for all programs based on the training needs of the athlete.</b></li> <li>• Wearing masks for the coaches and staff is <b>required while not in the field of play, i.e. required in public areas of the facility but not while coaching on the gym floor</b></li> <li>• Gloves required for people cleaning equipment between rotations or at the end of day. Otherwise, no gloves for coaches as provide a false sense of safety and people begin to relax their cleaning with them. If they insist on gloves they need to be changed every time something is touched and hands need to be washed between each new set of gloves</li> <li>• Personal safety measures such as coughing/sneezing into arm</li> <li>• Anyone feeling unwell as per Appendix B, <b>MUST STAY HOME</b></li> <li>• Staff member should be assigned to ensure athletes are washing hands before coming into equipment/gym area. Safe sport guidelines must be followed.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Program Management (running of classes)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure the physical distancing requirements of the 2 metres are met</li> <li>• Reduce the number of classes/programs in the gym at any one time</li> <li>• The age limit age of 5 years old and up is removed for Stage 2.</li> </ul>

- Add time between class changeover or stagger start and end times to ensure all guidelines found within this document can be followed.
- Create distancing lines within the facility
- Rearrange, remove or spread out equipment for better physical distancing
- Create pathways and possibly re-arrange the equipment within the facility for better flow
- Create scheduling for apparatus in order to maintain the guidelines for physical distancing
- Eliminate pit usage for recreational programs - cover pit with landing mats. The foam pit can now be used for competitive training.
- Adhere to maximum numbers in the facility as dictated by NS Health Act  
**\*\* Current Guidelines from the Provincial Government in the Health Act as presented under Gathering limits in Restrictions and Guidelines section of the Government of Nova Scotia website as of October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 -**  
*You need to follow gathering limits, unless your group has an exemption identified in the [Health Protection Act Order \(PDF\)](#).*  
*The following gathering restrictions are in place:*
  - *gathering limit without social distancing - you can form a close social group of up to 10 people without social distancing; you're not required to be exclusive but are strongly encouraged to maintain a consistent group (people shouldn't gather in random or spontaneous groups of 10)*
  - *gathering limit without social distancing for participants in organized performing arts (excluding singing and playing brass or wind instruments) and sports - participants in performing arts and sports (recreational, amateur and professional) can gather in groups of up to 50 people without social distancing for practices, competitions, games, rehearsals and artistic performances; the limit includes players, participants, officials, coaches, instructors, performers, directors, cast, crew and anyone who is required to be on or near a field of play or within a performance space*
  - *indoor gathering limit with social distancing for social events, spectators of sports and performing arts, organized physical activity, faith gatherings, weddings, funerals, arts and culture events, festivals and special events that are run by a recognized business or organization - 50% of the venue's capacity up to 200 people maximum indoors*
  - *All spectators must wear masks and be physically distant. Spectators must stay a minimum of 2 metres (6 feet) away from the field of play.*
  - *Each facility has its own guidelines and capacity limits which must be respected at all times. Complete information can be viewed in Section 5 of the Health Act:*  
<https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/docs/health-protection-act-order-by-the-medical-officer-of-health.pdf>  
**As this changes, this section will be updated.**
- *Gymnastics clubs that own and operate their own facilities, should also refer to the [NS Fitness Facilities re-opening guidelines \(June 4, 2020\)](#).*

<b>Class/Team Management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure the physical distancing requirements of the 2 metres are met</li> <li>• You may need to reduce the number of gymnasts per coach (<i>might be dependent on recommended numbers per square foot</i>)</li> <li>• Create physical distancing between stations/circuits</li> <li>• Reduce class time in order to allow for facility safeguarding</li> <li>• Stagger break times for competitive/team gymnasts</li> <li>• Have designated break areas that can be marked off to ensure safe distancing</li> </ul>
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## Appendix A

### 1. Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Cleaning and Disinfecting Public Spaces

Link: <https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/phac-aspc/documents/services/publications/diseases-conditions/coronavirus/cleaning-disinfecting-public-spaces/cleaning-disinfecting-public-spaces-eng.pdf>

### 2. Approved Cleaning products for use against SARS and Cov-2

Link: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/disinfectants/covid-19/list.html>

***Please refer to these links often as this list of products is constantly changing.***

## Appendix B

**Standard questions to ask everyone upon entry to the facility. Anyone entering the facility, should use these guidelines:**

1. Ask them if in the past 48 hours they have had, or are currently experiencing:

- a fever (>38 C) **OR** cough (new or worsening)

**OR**

Two or more of the following symptoms (new or worsening):

- a sore throat
- a runny nose
- a headache
- shortness of breath

2. If **yes**, go to step 4.

3. If no, assess for the following screening risk factors:

- a. Ask if they have tested positive for COVID-19 OR have a swab pending.
- b. Have they traveled outside of Atlantic Canada (NS, NB, PE, NL) within the past 14 days?
- c. Have they been in close contact (within 2 meters) of a known or suspected case (symptomatic person) within the past 14 days (includes a person with symptoms who has travelled outside of Atlantic Canada in the past 14 days)?

If **yes**, ask them to wash their hands. Advise them to put on a mask and maintain spatial separation of 2 meters. Minimize contact. Confirm their contact information and request they return home, self-isolate, and advise them visit: <https://www.nshealth.ca/coronavirus-assessment>