

Parents, Guardians, Players & Coaches,

OVERVIEW

This document has been prepared specifically for Plymouth Little League (PLL) to create a safe environment for players, coaches, umpires, volunteers, and members of their household or immediate family while participating in youth baseball and softball at East Plymouth Valley Park (EPVP). These recommendations were compiled in accordance with:

- [CDC: Considerations for Youth Sports](#)
- [Little League International: 2020 Season Resumption Guide](#)
- [Gov. Tom Wolf: Process to Reopen Pennsylvania](#)
- [Montgomery County Department of Public Health](#)
- Plymouth Township: Guidelines for East Plymouth Valley Park (attachment 1)

NOTE TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS

Please understand, this is an unprecedented time. Updates and recommendations change on a daily basis. PLL reserves the right to regularly review, update, and adjust our policies for effectiveness or if/when government guidance changes. This plan provides guidelines, but we cannot guarantee adherence by all participants at all times. Families should make their own choices on participation and in the best interest of their family and players. The plan is focused on minimizing risk while still allowing for fun competition.

RED PHASE

During Red Phase, all PLL activities are suspended.

YELLOW PHASE

During Yellow Phase, all PLL activities will remain suspended. Although PLL has approval by Montgomery County and Plymouth Township for small group practices in Yellow Phase, at this time we have decided out of an abundance of caution to operate only when we are in Green. Despite our eagerness to return immediately, we believe this will allow us more time to properly focus on our core mission of providing a safe and fun experience for the kids and families in our community.

GREEN PHASE

During Green Phase, PLL will be ready to begin immediately. We are permitted a max of 90 persons per field. We are recommending Household or immediate family members only (parents, guardians, siblings) when attending games. Any grandparent or extended family & friends that attend games do so at their own risk, and must adhere to same guidelines below. It is our recommendation that they not attend.



2020 PLYMOUTH LITTLE LEAGUE COVID-19 MITIGATION PLAN

THE COMMON FIVE

1 - Health Monitoring – PLEASE READ THIS CAREFULLY! This involves total community effort. Please do your part!

- Daily self-evaluated wellness screenings need to be completed by all players and families prior to entering the facility.
- If you or member of your household have a 100.4 degree temp or above, please stay home.
- If you or member of your household begins experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, notify PLL Safety Officer, Erica McKernan, esmckernan@gmail.com. Anyone experiencing COVID-19 symptoms is expected to stay home, self-quarantine, and will not be permitted to return to play until cleared by a medical professional. This includes any player, coach, or volunteer.
- For more information, please visit CDC Recommendation: [When You Can Be Around Others After You Had or Likely Had COVID-19](#)

2 - Hand Washing - We recommend players wash hands often, and when soap and water is not available, we will have hand sanitizer placed in all dugouts for frequent use. All parents are expected to bring their own hand sanitizer.

3 - Social Distancing - Please maintain at least 6' between you and others while watching, following all posted signage throughout the facility.

- For younger divisions, spectator areas will be established for each player. You should expect your child to potentially be sitting with you while it is their turn to “be on the bench.”
- Players will also be instructed to position their equipment bags at appropriate distance from each other.
- Umpires will be positioned behind the pitcher’s mound (for all kid pitch divisions).
- Dugouts & areas immediately near dugouts will be arranged to maintain 6’ social distance while not actively on the field.

4 - Cover Your Mouth & Nose - We recommend all fans to wear masks while outside the field of play. Players will not be required to wear masks while actively involved in play. They will be required to wear masks while in the dugout. Coaches and Umpires will be required to wear masks.

[Added July 13] Gov Wolf signed an expanded mask wearing order on Jul 1st. See [link to announcement here](#). The PLL Board of Directors requests that everyone wear a mask when walking into and out of park. Only when settled, and able to maintain 6’ social distance from others should fans remove their masks.

5 - Cleaning & Disinfecting – Help do your part by keeping your area clean and disposing of trash.

- No sharing of equipment.
- All catchers gear will be wiped down with disinfecting wipes after each use.
- All benches will be wiped down after each game.
- All game balls will be wiped down, and replaced each inning.

MINIMIZING FREQUENTLY TOUCHED AREAS

- Please bring your own seating as the bleachers will be closed. Please understand your view of the field could be limited.
- ALL Pressbox areas must remain closed at all times.
- There will be NO shared drinks. Your child is required to bring their own personal water container as water fountains will be disabled.



- Bathrooms will be CLOSED. We realize the inconvenience, but do not feel we can achieve the level of cleanliness required. A PLL “Director on Duty” (DOD) will be present and have keys to bathrooms in cases of absolute emergency.
- Snack Shack will be CLOSED. Families may bring their own food/coolers, but must be responsible for their own trash and cleaning up after themselves. Alcoholic beverages are not permitted at any time.

SCHEDULING FEATURES

- We are targeting a 6-week season that will run from June 27th to August 8th. This is dependent upon reaching Green Phase. Should governmental changes to Red, Yellow, Green Phases occur during the season, PLL Board of Directors will adjust our plan accordingly.
- One of our goals is to reduce the amount of people throughout EPVP. Game start times will be staggered, and we recommend teams not arrive more than 30 mins prior to game time.
- Games/Practices will be scheduled Mon-Sun. Each team should expect 2 or 3 games/practices per week.

PRE-GAME

- (6) baseballs will be designated to each team. (2) Game balls will be removed every 2 innings, sprayed & wiped down with [Clear Gear](#) (endorsed by several MLB teams), and then rotated for next game. (I.e. 12 balls would be used in a 6 inning game). Each division will vary this guideline slightly based on best practices for their division.
- There is no sharing of equipment. PLL will supply each head coach with a team bag of equipment (such as catcher’s gear and heartguard). Any player that uses shared equipment will be the “only” player who uses this equipment for the game. The Head Coach must properly disinfect team equipment immediately following the game in preparation for future use.
- Home plate meetings will be limited to the umpire and one (1) coach from each team; all must practice social distancing and wear masks.

DURING THE GAME

- Dugouts will be expanded to include bleachers, and we ask for your cooperation in practicing social distancing by spectating along outfield fence areas. These modifications will be field specific.
- Hand sanitizer will be available in the dugouts and is intended to be used upon entering and exiting the dugout, including between innings.
- When needed, coaches will have paper towels for kids to clean “dirty” hands prior to using hand sanitizer. We anticipate there will be times where we may need parent assistance to help younger kids with this step. Remember, these are kids, and dirt castles are fun! But muddy/hand sanitizer hands are a mess.
- No spitting, sunflower seeds, gum, or any food is permitted in dugouts.
- The home plate umpire will be positioned at least 6’ behind the pitcher.
- Foul balls and homeruns should NOT be touched by spectators. Players should retrieve all balls that exit playing area.
- Celebratory high-fives and handshaking is unfortunately not permitted.
- Coaches and Umpires are required to wear masks.

POST-GAME

- In lieu of handshaking lines, each team will line up on their respective foul line, tip their caps to the opposing team and then to their fans.
- Teams and families will be encouraged to leave the facilities immediately following game ending, so traffic is reduced while next set of teams enter the facility.



TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS [Updated Sept 29]

- We want everyone to enjoy their summer as best as possible. Please be aware of updated travel restrictions to/from “Red States” before returning to any PLL activity. Gov Wolf and PA Dept of Health have recently updated the list of restricted states. Delaware was removed from PA’s travel quarantine list on Jul 15th. Trips/vacations to any of these states recommend a 14-day quarantine upon your return.
- List of States: AL, AR, FL, GA, ID, IL, IO, KS, KY, MI, MO, NB, ND, OK, SC, SD, TN, TX, UT, WI ([updated Sept 25 by PA Dept of Health](#))
- The PLL Board of Directors expects all of our families to comply with these travel restrictions to help protect our community.
- For more information: <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Travelers.aspx>

COMPLIANCE

- We hope everyone will do their part. But failure by player, or parent/guardian/fan to comply with these guidelines are grounds for removal from game. If repeated offenses occur PLL reserves the right to remove your child from our summer program.

PLL RESPONSE IF PLAYER/COACH TEST POSITIVE FOR COVID-19 [Added Jul 13]

- The PLL Board of Directors will implement a “1-day Pause” of all PLL activities, across all divisions, if a player or coach are diagnosed with Covid-19. We will use this time to gather information, assess extent of possible exposure, and communicate to league members the outcome.
- As a reminder, PLL is a 100% volunteer run organization. We appreciate the value of exercise, friends, and community for the kids during these summer months. We are implementing this “1-day Pause” policy to allow ourselves time to assess all considerations.

COVID-19 Point of Contact

- If you have any questions, or concerns about anything related to the season regarding COVID-19, please contact PLL Safety Officer, Erica McKernan, esmckernan@gmail.com.

FAQ

Playing outside our township?

+ Will our rec season involve play against teams outside our local league?

- If a division does not have enough teams to play a full in-house schedule, we may partner with other nearby leagues. Example; Whitemarsh, Conshohocken, Lower Gwynedd, East Norriton

+ [Added Jul 13] All visiting teams will be provided a copy of the PLL Covid-19 Mitigation Policy at a minimum of 2 days prior to a scheduled game at EPVP, and are expected to review and follow our guidelines when visiting our facility.

What if my child needs to share equipment?

+ No kids are permitted to share equipment during game.

- PLL does provide “Catchers equipment” per team, and have invested in extra gear. If this equipment is used, it is not permitted to be shared for the remainder of the game. It is the Head Coach responsibility to have this equipment disinfected after each use. If equipment is a hardship, please contact your coach directly at the start of the season to discuss.
- All pitchers for AA, AAA, and INT are required to wear a heartguard. Most kids wear their own “under armour” heartguard under their uniform shirt, and we recommend this (See example



[Heartguard](#)). Anyone not wearing one will be given a “team heartguard” that will slip over their uniform. This will not be shared with anyone else the remainder of the game. It is the Head Coach responsibility to have this heartguard disinfected after each use.

- Players should use their own bat if possible. If a league bat is used, it must be disinfected by the Head Coach immediately after use.

Attachment 1

From: Brady, Phil PBrady@plymouthtownship.org 
Subject: RE: Permits
Date: June 9, 2020 at 4:07 PM
To: Mazei, Shawn SMazei@plymouthtownship.org, Bryan McKernan bryan_mckernan@me.com
Cc: Franck, Karen KFranck@plymouthtownship.org, Carbo, Rick RCarbo@plymouthtownship.org

BP

Youth Sports practices during the Yellow Phase

1. Restrooms only open for emergencies. Only one family at time if necessary.
2. Safety and Health begins at home- Nobody should come to practice and the park if they don't feel well. Children and parents.
3. Parents should avoid gathering together in large groups.
4. Parents should spread around the field while watching.
5. 6-foot physical distance required at all times.
6. Playgrounds are closed in yellow phase per the Governor.
7. It is recommended that only one parent and no siblings should accompany children to practice.
8. The water fountains will not be on so everyone should bring their own water bottle.
9. Practices for younger groups might be lower numbers (much less than 25) where older children can be higher numbers. It is easier for older children to understand the principals of distancing.
10. Everyone should provide their own hand sanitizer.
11. The Coaches will set the tone with the practice and encourage the children to do their best to follow the guidelines.

