Safety Guidance for *FIRST* Robotics Competition Teams for COVID-19

Follow Local Guidance

Teams are responsible for following all local guidelines. Prior to creating a Safety Plan for COVID-19, teams must understand all national and local guidelines published by health offices. Safety is always the number one priority for teams. Any team looking for the appropriate local guidance should contact their local health office for more information.

Create a Team Safety Plan for COVID-19

Instilling a culture of safety is a value that every individual in the *FIRST* community must embrace as we pursue *FIRST*'s mission and vision. As teams plan to have a safe season, a Safety Plan must consider the implications of infectious disease and incorporate elements that help minimize the risk of spreading COVID-19. Elements of this plan can include use of collaboration tools, identifying precautions, social distancing measures, and establishing policies around sharing materials and tools, plus any other guidelines required by local health offices. This information is in addition to the team's current Safety Plan.

Prior to putting your team's Safety Plan for COVID-19 in place, teams must contact your managing organization as well as local health offices to determine the guidance for your area.

The following are examples of resources you can use as you assemble your plan.

- How to Protect Yourself and Others (US CDC)
- How to Protect Yourself and Others (World Health Organization)
- Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Public Spaces, Workplaces, Businesses, Schools and Homes (US CDC)
- Cleaning and disinfecting environmental surfaces (World Health Organization)
- Safety plans from your managing organization (school or school district, 4-H chapter, Boys & Girls Club, etc) and other sources of policies for your area.
- *FIRST* Safety Manual
- Youth Protection policy

Examples of Information to Include in a Safety Plan

Examples of the type of information about how to limit the spread of infectious diseases that could be included in a Safety Plan are below. This list is not exhaustive and should be considered an addition to a team's typical Safety Plan. All teams should consult with their local health offices prior to implementing a Safety Plan.

1. Expectations that team members follow safety guidelines created by your team
2. Use of personal protective equipment (PPE), such as safety glasses and masks
3. The importance of handwashing and use of hand sanitizer
4. Social distancing guidelines
5. Knowing when to stay home
6. How to handle shared materials and tools

Keep Your Plan Updated

Be sure to keep your Safety Plan for COVID-19 updated. As local conditions and team needs change, your plan should change with them. Be sure to communicate those changes with your team.