



# U.S. PARALYMPICS CYCLING OPEN

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## COVID-19 Mitigation Plan & Protocols

U.S. Paralympics Cycling is dedicated to protecting the health and safety of Team USA. In light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, U.S. Paralympics Cycling has adopted this COVID-19 Mitigation Plan to ensure the health and safety of all Participants and the larger population as a whole. This document is intended to provide clear guidance, and rights and responsibilities in order to protect against and reduce the spread of SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19), while maintaining competitive opportunity for eligible athletes.

### SECTIONS

- Key Terms
- Key Staff
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- General Guidance
- Event Requirements for Participants
- Response and Review Process
- Athlete Rights
- Event Postponement/Cancellation Parameters

*-- The following protocols may be updated as COVID-19 guidelines evolve and change in the U.S. and/or the Huntsville area --*



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## KEY TERMS

- **CDC Guidelines**—guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control regarding COVID-19, available [here](#) and the Centers for Disease Control’s Considerations for Events and Gatherings, available [here](#).
- **Close Sustained Contact**—contact within 6 feet sustained for at least 15 minutes over a 24-hour period, whether or not masks are worn.
- **COVID-19 Officer**—an individual appointed by the U.S. Paralympics Cycling to oversee implementation of the COVID-19 Mitigation Plan & Protocols at the U.S. Paralympics Cycling Open, including contact tracing.
- **COVID-19 Medical Director**—a physician who has admitting privileges at the nearby or official hospital facilities or is associated with a local medical team that has associated privileges.
- **Mitigation Plan** – this COVID-19 Mitigation Plan for the U.S. Paralympics Cycling Open.
- **Participant**—any athlete, staff, support personnel, or other person who has access to athletes or athlete areas during the U.S. Paralympics Cycling Open.
- **COVID-19 PCR Test**—a polymerase chain reaction test or equivalent nucleic acid amplification test such as loop mediated isothermal amplification to test for COVID-19. For purposes of clarity, antigen and antibody tests are not considered COVID-19 Tests permissible under this Protocol.

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## KEY STAFF

*Event Director* – Ian Lawless, U.S. Paralympics Cycling

*Technical Director* – Chris Reed, Medalist Sports

*COVID-19 Medical Director* - TBD

*COVID-19 Officer* – Kyle McKinnis, U.S. Paralympics

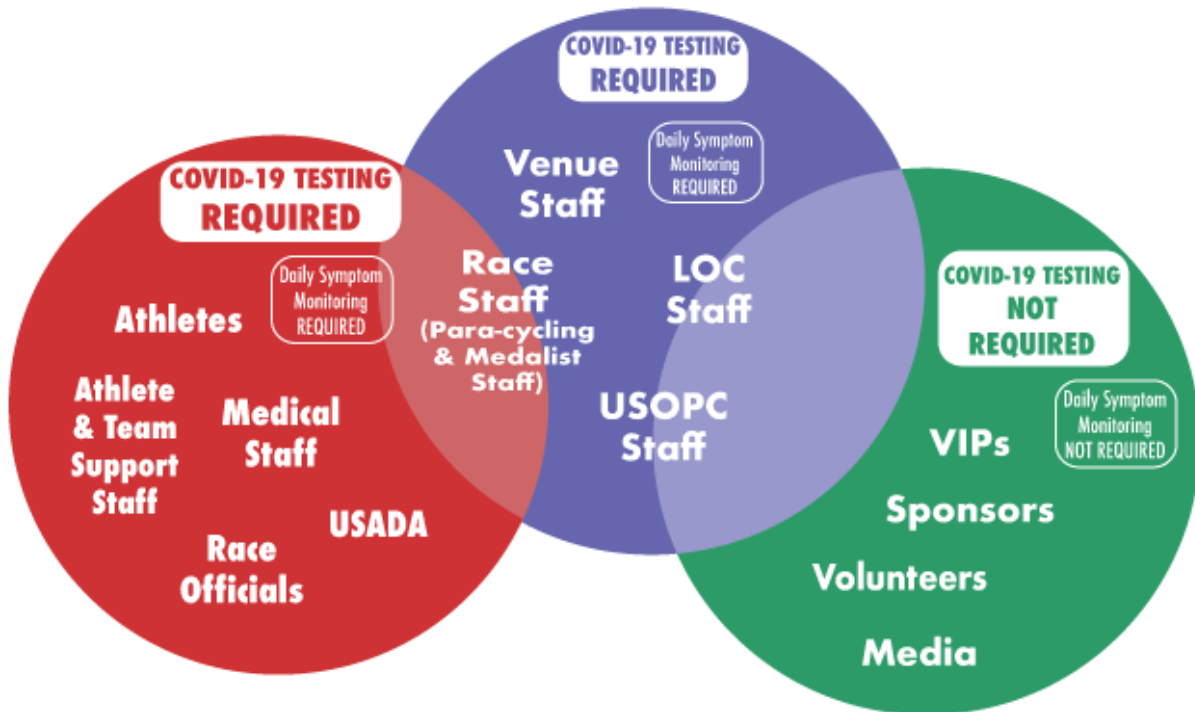
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## PARTICIPANT GROUPS





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## GENERAL GUIDANCE

All Participants should adhere to the ensuing measures whenever possible. Where applicable, guidance should be followed at least seven days prior to travel and continue until the completion of the event.

Failure to adhere to items listed below, disregard for the spirit of the mitigation efforts, or egregious violations of safety for the event and its Participants may result in removal from the venue and/or barring from the competition.

- Minimize community contact, including but not limited to:
  - Public dining
  - Going to a movie
  - Participating in large, public gatherings
  - Competing in events with less rigorous COVID-19 protocols
- Follow COVID-19 mitigation travel recommendations outlined in the “Considerations for Participation in National or International Camps or Competitions” document at <http://www.teamusa.org/coronavirus-updates>.
- If possible, stay in a hotel room by yourself to minimize exposure to others.
- Travel to and from the venue by yourself to minimize exposure to others.
- Wear your face mask at all times except when eating/drinking, competing, or in your hotel room by yourself.
  - When you are in areas that do not allow you to socially distance more than six feet (e.g. on an airplane), consider doubling up on face masks or also wearing eye protection such as goggles/safety glasses or a face shield to protect your eyes from respiratory droplets (Remember, a face shield does not replace a face mask).
- Maintain at least six feet of physical distancing whenever possible.
- Wash your hands with soap and water (for at least 20 seconds) or use hand sanitizer with 60-95% alcohol thoroughly after touching anything someone else may have touched, after coughing/sneezing, after blowing your nose, after going to the bathroom, or after eating.
- Avoid touching your face, including your eyes, nose, or mouth.



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- Cover your mouth with a tissue or your elbow if you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash, and then wash your hands.
- Use an antiseptic wipe to clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces regularly (e.g. airplane seat/armrests/seatbelts/tray table/video screens, door knobs, rental car surfaces, hotel room surfaces, suitcase, etc). Consider using an EPA-approved product for COVID-19 using the CDC's cleaning guidelines when possible.
- Stay home if you are sick.
- Monitor the WHO and CDC websites for travel advisories and follow their recommendations.
- Avoid the following behaviors:
  - High-fives, fist bumps, handshakes, etc.
  - Sharing personal items (water bottles, other drinks, food, towels, tissues, etc.).
  - Label personal items so that they are not confused with other individuals' items.
  - Cheering, chanting, or singing.
  - Congregating in spaces like the airport gate, baggage claim, registration tables, hotel lobbies, etc.
  - Eating inside restaurants. If you are ordering food from a restaurant, either go through the drive-through (if available), order from a curbside restaurant, order food to-go to eat in an isolated space, or, eat in an outdoor area that allows you to socially distance from others by at least six feet.
- Training should occur individually or with the minimum number of people required to effectively train during this time frame. Participants should avoid training at a public facility during this time frame, if possible.
- Monitor your signs and symptoms, to include:
  - Fever or chills
  - Cough
  - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
  - Fatigue
  - Muscle or body aches
  - Headache
  - New loss of taste and/or smell
  - Sore throat
  - Congestion or runny nose
  - Nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea



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## Guidelines for Acceptable Face Masks

The following are acceptable face masks:

1. A medical mask;
  2. N95 or KN95 mask; or
  3. A fabric mask that is washable at high temperatures regularly, with at least two – but ideally three – layers, including an inner layer of absorbent material (such as cotton), a middle layer of non-woven material (such as polypropylene), and an outer layer of non-absorbent material (such as polyester or a polyester blend).
- Consider doubling up on medical-grade/surgical-grade or cloth masks for added protection.
  - Face shields may be worn in addition to a face mask for added protection to the eyes from respiratory droplets, but face shields do NOT replace masks.
  - Masks must fully cover the nose and mouth and be secured under the chin.
  - Masks should fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face, be secured with ties or ear loops and allow the individual to remain hands-free.

The following are not acceptable face coverings:

- Neck gaiters
- Open-chin triangle bandanas
- Face coverings containing valves, mesh material, or holes of any kind
- Costume masks

Participants are responsible for supplying their own mask, in accordance with the above requirements, and should not expect masks to be provided on-site.

## Medical Access

Participants with COVID-19 symptoms or other health issues should seek medical assistance at **Huntsville Hospital** - 101 Sivley Rd SW, Huntsville, AL 35801.

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## EVENT REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPANTS

### PRE-ARRIVAL AND ARRIVAL IN HUNTSVILLE

#### *Participant Agreement*

Each athlete will be provided a copy of this Mitigation Plan prior to their anticipated arrival in Huntsville, and must sign and return the COVID-19 Participation Agreement to abide by and be bound by said plan, including any and all testing, signs and symptoms monitoring and removal requirements. **If an athlete arrives without having returned a signed copy of the agreement and refuses to sign a copy provided upon arrival, the athlete will not be permitted to enter the venue or participate in the event.**

#### *Arrival Date*

In order to facilitate adequate testing and implementation of protocols to provide Participants an opportunity for confirmatory tests, if needed, the arrival date for all Participants must be **no later than 9:00 am CDT on Wednesday, April 14**, absent a showing of extenuating circumstances that made arrival on April 14 impossible (e.g., flight delays).

Participants must submit proof of their travel plan (e.g. flight confirmation, description of driving schedule, etc.) no later than **Friday, April 9**, at the following link:

[https://usoc.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_6sqmLFKi61dLNPM](https://usoc.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6sqmLFKi61dLNPM)

#### *Symptom Monitoring*

Starting Saturday, April 10, all Participants will be required to begin twice-daily symptom monitoring through a link sent by email. This questionnaire will also include contact tracing questions that can be used in the event of a positive test.

Event staff will verify proof of completion of the most recent symptom monitoring survey for each credentialed Participant attempting to access athlete parking.

Participants should not come to the race venue if they are experiencing signs or symptoms of COVID-19 and should immediately go to Huntsville Hospital (101 Sivley Rd SW, Huntsville, AL 35801) for evaluation.



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## *Pre-Arrival Testing*

All Participants must obtain and provide documentation of a negative COVID-19 PCR Test prior to travel to Huntsville. This test should occur no earlier than **Thursday, April 8, 2021**, and should be completed before arrival at the U.S. Paralympics Cycling Open, whether the Participant is traveling to Huntsville or lives locally. The Participant will be responsible for the cost of this test.

- A Participant who can provide clear documentation of COVID-19 infection within 90 days of the competition (evidence of a positive COVID-19 test result and a doctor's note verifying the participant is no longer symptomatic) is not required to complete pre-arrival testing.
- A Participant who has received a COVID-19 vaccination or series of vaccinations is still required to complete the pre-arrival testing.

Participants will not be eligible to participate in the next eligibility requirement (See *On-Site Testing*) until they provide the documentation of a negative test or approved evidence of prior infection.

Visit [www.testfortravel.com](http://www.testfortravel.com) to find suitable testing options.

In order to expedite this step, please upload documentation of either a negative, pre-arrival test, or, proof of a positive test within the last 90 days and a doctor's note at the following link:

[https://usoc.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_2uaR38LjMHYbe9o](https://usoc.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2uaR38LjMHYbe9o)

## *On-Site Testing*

All Participants must complete an on-site COVID-19 PCR test in the following window:

**Date:** Wednesday, April 14

**Time:** 9:00 am – 12:00 noon CDT

**Location:** The Westin Huntsville parking lot

***This is the only guaranteed window for on-site testing. Failure to arrive for testing in this window eliminates any assurance of access to other testing or timely results.*** Please contact the COVID Officer if extenuating circumstances have delayed your arrival.





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- A Participant who can provide clear documentation of COVID-19 infection within 90 days of the competition (evidence of a positive COVID-19 test result and a doctor's note verifying the participant is no longer symptomatic) is not required to complete on-site testing. If, however, the Participant is presenting or reporting signs or symptoms of COVID-19, the Participant must be evaluated by medical personnel for possible COVID-19 re-infection. This may include COVID-19 testing, removing the Participant from the competition venue and/or the right to participate in the U.S. Paralympics Cycling Open, and requiring that the Participant isolate for the period recommended by the CDC Guidelines, according to the severity of their illness.
- A Participant who has received a COVID-19 vaccination or series of vaccinations is still required to complete the on-site testing.
- Medical personnel for the event do not need to complete on-site testing if they can provide proof of a negative PCR test result through their employer within 72 hours of their work for the U.S. Paralympics Cycling Open.

If a Participant's on-site COVID-19 PCR test returns an indeterminate or positive result and the Participant is asymptomatic, the Participant will be provided the opportunity to receive two confirmatory PCR tests in order to receive a credential, enter the venue or compete.

If one or both of the confirmatory test results is positive, regardless of whether the Participant is asymptomatic, the Participant is considered to have COVID-19, cannot compete or enter the competition venue, and must self-isolate for the period recommended by the CDC Guidelines, according to the severity of their illness. If, however, both confirmatory COVID-19 PCR test results are negative and the Participant is asymptomatic, then the original positive screening test result is considered a false positive result and the Participant should be permitted to compete and/or enter the competition venue.

Confirmatory tests may be used to determine status of COVID-19 infection, including for symptomatic Participants after a previous negative test result, up until 5pm CDT on Friday, April 16. After this point, the evaluation of symptomatic individuals will be conducted by the COVID-19 Medical Director or a proxy.



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## *Athlete & Essential Staff Participant Close Sustained Contact*

An athlete or essential staff Participant who has had Close Sustained Contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19 should quarantine for the period recommended by the CDC Guidelines.

An athlete or essential staff Participant who can provide clear documentation of COVID-19 infection within 90 days of the U.S. Paralympics Cycling Open (evidence of a positive COVID-19 test result and a doctor's note verifying the participant is no longer symptomatic), or of completion of a full COVID-19 vaccination series at least two weeks and no more than 90 days before the episode of Close Sustained Contact, and who is currently asymptomatic, does not need to quarantine and can compete.

## *Non-Athlete Participant Close Sustained Contact*

Pursuant to the CDC Guidelines, any Non-Athlete Participant who has had Close Sustained Contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19 must be removed from or barred access to the U.S. Paralympics Cycling Open venue and should quarantine for the period recommended by the CDC Guidelines.

## *Responsibility of Cost*

U.S. Paralympics Cycling, the Local Organizing Committee, competition venues, officials, staff, medical, and event volunteers are not responsible for the costs associated with Participant quarantines following a positive COVID-19 test result, a quarantine due to contact tracing or Close Sustained Contact with a Participant returning a positive COVID-19 test, including costs associated with housing and travel.

## **Entry Into Competition Venue**

### ***The following screening will apply upon entry to athlete parking:***

1. Participants must have the proper credential type at the designated location for access to athlete areas and field of play.
2. Participants must be wearing an acceptable face mask (see *Guidelines for Acceptable Face Masks*) at the screening station.
3. Participants will be screened for a temperature with a thermometer.



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- a. Participants with a temperature greater than 100.4° F will not be permitted to enter the venue. If a secondary thermometer also proves a temperature greater than 100.4° F, the Participant will be escorted to an isolation area for examination/observation by the COVID-19 Medical Director or another physician.
  - b. If the Participant's temperature remains over 100.4° F after one hour and/or the Participant is displaying signs or symptoms of COVID-19, then the Participant will be removed from the venue and may be barred from participation subject to any secondary medical review (see *Response and Review Process*). Additionally, they must comply with all applicable public health requirements and guidance regarding quarantine.
4. Event staff will verify proof of completion of the most recent symptom monitoring survey. If a Participant has not yet completed the survey, they will need to do so on-site before granted access to the venue. If a Participant answers "yes" to any of the symptom questions or if they are experiencing symptoms upon entry, they will not be permitted to enter the venue unless cleared by medical staff.

***The following screening will apply to entry to the media mixed zone and event hospitality/VIP areas:***

1. Individuals must have the proper credential type for access to these areas.
2. Individuals must be wearing an acceptable face mask (see *Guidelines for Acceptable Face Masks*) at the screening station.
3. Individuals will be screened for a temperature with a thermometer.
  - a. Individuals with a temperature greater than 100.4° F on both a primary and secondary thermometer will not be permitted to enter the venue and urged to seek medical attention.
4. Individuals will be asked the same questions as those listed on the symptom monitoring survey. Only asymptomatic individuals will be permitted to enter the venue.



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***The following screening will apply to venue entry for spectators, including family members:***

1. Individuals must be wearing an acceptable face mask (see *Guidelines for Acceptable Face Masks*) at the screening station.
2. Individuals will be screened for a temperature with a thermometer.
  - a. Individuals with a temperature greater than 100.4° F on both a primary and secondary thermometer will not be permitted to enter the venue and urged to seek medical attention.
3. Individuals will be asked the same questions as those listed on the symptom monitoring survey. Only asymptomatic individuals will be permitted to enter the venue.

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## RESPONSE AND REVIEW

This Response and Review process outlines the protocol to provide athlete Participants with an opportunity for a second evaluation before being barred from participation in the U.S. Paralympics Cycling Open due to a medical determination resulting from:

- having COVID-19 symptoms;
- receiving a positive COVID-19 PCR test result; or
- being in Close Sustained Contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19

The intent of this process is to protect the health and safety of everyone at the U.S. Paralympics Cycling Open by providing for clear and swift protocols where a potential risk presents itself or public health guidelines apply.

Depending on the circumstances, an individual may need to be removed from a venue or barred from participation in the competition.

### Removal from Venue

*Immediate removal from the U.S. Paralympics Cycling Open venue to protect the health and safety of all.*

### Bar from Participation

*Barred from participating in the U.S. Paralympics Cycling Open after being afforded a secondary medical review/confirmation (if time permits).*



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## Positive COVID-19 PCR Test Result

All Participants must arrive in Huntsville, AL for COVID-19 testing no later than 9:00am CDT, Wednesday, April 14. A Participant who tests positive for COVID-19 will not be permitted at the competition venue and must follow all relevant CDC guidelines.

### 1. Opportunities for Review Prior to Barring Athlete from Participating in the U.S. Paralympics Cycling Open

#### a. Confirmatory Tests

An athlete who returns a positive test result, and who is asymptomatic will be provided the opportunity for two additional tests. If the athlete produces two negative COVID-19 test results (and no positives), they will be permitted to participate in the U.S. Paralympics Cycling Open. If, for any reason, two negative COVID-19 PCR test results are not returned prior to the time of the athlete's competition, the athlete will not be permitted to participate in the event.

U.S. Paralympics Cycling and other event organizers have no control over delays attributable to the testing facilities. If an athlete cannot get the results of two confirmatory tests in advance of competition, then the athlete is presumed to have COVID-19 and cannot compete in the event.

#### i. COVID-19 Officer Review

The event COVID-19 Officer will review and ensure that the testing protocols were followed and, where there were deviations, request further testing as time permits.

#### b. Final Determination

There will be no further review after a positive test result has been confirmed (or where time does not permit two negative confirmatory test results). In such cases, the athlete will be barred from participating in the competition and must follow all relevant CDC guidelines.



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## Displaying Signs & Symptoms of COVID-19

Any Participant displaying signs and symptoms indicative of COVID-19 (including a temperature higher than 100.4°F) may be removed immediately from or barred access to the competition venue as determined by the COVID-19 Medical Director.

### 1. Opportunities for Review Prior to Barring Athlete from Participating at the U.S. Paralympics Cycling Open

#### a. Medical Evaluation

Time permitting, an athlete who displays symptoms of COVID-19 will be directed to a safe location for further medical evaluation by a physician to determine whether the athlete can participate in the competition. The evaluating physician may instead immediately direct an athlete to an urgent care health facility in their sole medical judgment.

The evaluating physician, the COVID-19 Medical Director, or their proxy may monitor the athlete for a reasonable amount of time (up to an hour) to make a medical determination, recheck their temperature using different thermometers, and do other evaluations as appropriate. The athlete is not permitted out of the medical area during that time or out of sight of the physician.

The athlete may present information and medical documentation regarding conditions that may impact the appearance of signs and symptoms similar to those related to COVID-19. The athlete will be denied access to the competition venue pending physician approval to compete.

#### b. Secondary Medical Review – COVID-19 Medical Director

If the physician determines it is appropriate to bar an athlete from participating in the competition, then a second physician<sup>1</sup> will conduct a secondary medical

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<sup>1</sup> The second physician could be the COVID-19 Medical Director if the COVID-19 Medical Director did not perform the initial review. Alternatively, it could be any other pre-identified individual either on or off-site. This could be the NGB's head team physician, or a physician in private practice, urgent care, emergency room or inpatient hospital ward. It is recommended that the physician have a sports and/or infectious disease background.



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review. If both agree, the decision to bar the athlete from participating in the U.S. Paralympics Cycling Open stands.

c. Final Medical Review (tiebreaker)

If the physicians do not agree about whether to bar an athlete from participating in the event, a third physician (appointed and approved by either U.S. Paralympics Cycling or the USOPC) will conduct a medical review. This may be in-person, or telephonically, with the physician to review the records and medical determination.

i. COVID-19 Officer

The COVID-19 Officer will review and ensure that the physicians followed the proper protocols and processes. The COVID-19 Officer may request further medical evaluation if the process was not followed.

2. Final Determination

A decision to bar an athlete from participating in the U.S. Paralympics Cycling Open made by the physicians (or third physician, as necessary) based on signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and confirmed by the COVID-19 Officer is final and binding.

## Contact Tracing

1. Opportunities for Review Prior to Barring Athlete from Participation in the U.S. Paralympics Cycling Open

a. Contact Tracing Identification

Upon an individual testing positive for COVID-19, the COVID-19 Officer will gather information from the individual and will identify all other individuals who have been in Close Sustained Contact. Those individuals will be notified, will not be permitted at the competition venue, and must follow CDC guidelines. The U.S. Paralympics Cycling Open requires the release of identifying information in the event of a positive test as a condition of participation, regardless of a status of a recently confirmed negative test. This provides other athletes with sufficient information to have the opportunity to contest being contact traced out of the competition.

b. Secondary Review – Opportunity to Present Evidence



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To rebut a finding that an athlete was in Close Sustained Contact with an individual who tested positive for COVID-19, the removed athlete will have the opportunity to present evidence to the COVID-19 Officer about their whereabouts and any other relevant information, including corroborating evidence. Based on a review of all of the evidence available, the COVID-19 Officer will make a determination of whether the evidence shows the removed athlete was in Close Sustained Contact with an individual who tested positive for COVID-19.

c. COVID-19 Medical Director Confirmation

The COVID-19 Medical Director will confirm if the COVID-19 Officer followed the appropriate contact tracing protocols.

## 2. Final Determination

A decision to bar an athlete from participating in the U.S. Paralympics Cycling Open made by the COVID-19 Officer and confirmed by the Medical Director is final and binding.

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## ATHLETE RIGHTS

Athlete Participants have the following rights under this COVID-19 Policy:

- a) Athletes have the right to be informed of the 2021 U.S. Paralympics Cycling Open COVID-19 Mitigation Plan & Protocols at least two weeks in advance of their arrival at the U.S. Paralympics Cycling Open.
- b) Athletes have the right to present medical documentation regarding conditions that may impact the appearance of signs and symptoms similar to those related to COVID-19 infections.<sup>2</sup>
- c) Athletes have the right to have their temperature taken by a second thermometer provided by the NGB if their first temperature check returns a reading over 100.4°F. If the first temperature check is performed using a

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<sup>2</sup> For example, if an athlete has allergies that lead to congestion or sore throat, both of which could be symptoms of COVID-19, the athlete has the right to present documentation from a physician explaining that the athlete suffers from allergies, how they present (i.e., what symptoms are typical), and when they typically present.





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- thermal scanner, then the second temperature check should be performed with an oral thermometer provided by the NGB.
- d) Athletes have the right to take two confirmatory COVID-19 PCR tests if their first test returns a positive result, which should occur prior to the day of their competition if possible.
  - e) Athletes who are suspected of being in Close Sustained Contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19 have the right to present evidence regarding their whereabouts.
  - f) Athletes have the right to report suspected signs or symptoms of illness of another Participant.
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## EVENT POSTPONEMENT AND CANCELLATION PARAMETERS

U.S. Paralympics Cycling is dedicated to holding the U.S. Paralympics Cycling Open unless this Mitigation Plan is rendered ineffective due to circumstances outside of its control. Examples of this include:

- Requirement of cancellation by Huntsville, AL, Madison County or State of Alabama public health officials
- Local COVID-19 prevalence greater than a seven-day moving average of 100 daily cases/100k people for five or more days, as reported at <https://globalepidemics.org/key-metrics-for-covid-suppression/>
- Positive COVID-19 test results in 10% or more of the registered athletes
- Public safety hazard, such as severe weather or natural disaster