



Special Olympics Washington Adjustment of Masking Protocols

March 18, 2022



Special Olympics Washington will be aligning with state and local health authorities' masking protocols beginning April 1, 2022. This means if local health authorities and facility do not require the use of masks, then masks will be optional at all Special Olympics Washington practices and events. Federal law still requires masking while using public transportation. **It is highly recommended that individuals continue proper masking and social distancing when possible!**



Onsite screening with temperature checks and verbal confirmation of no symptoms for all participants, volunteers, and spectators will remain in effect for practices and sporting events.

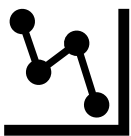


Onsite testing is not mandatory, but will be conducted on an individual basis for participants, volunteers, and spectators should they exhibit symptoms before or while attending Special Olympics Washington competitions.

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic began, people with intellectual disabilities (ID) faced disparities in health care systems. Across the board, people with ID are disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in health care, especially in terms of access to the COVID-19 vaccine.



- People with ID already die 16-20 years earlier than the general population due to preventable illness.
- People with ID are almost 6x more likely to die from COVID-19.
- People with ID who live in congregate settings are dying at even higher rates of COVID-19 due to challenges with social distancing.



Special Olympics Washington will continue to monitor COVID-19 trends, and consult with the CDC, state and local health authorities. Should state or local safety measures change, we will re-evaluate and make changes to our protocols as necessary.

We want to thank everyone for supporting Special Olympics Washington and our commitment to the health and wellbeing of our athletes and communities as we return to our regular in-person activities.

For questions, please contact your region manager or email: rta@sowa.org