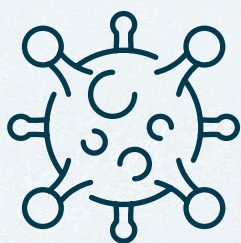




IBU



IBU EVENT GUIDELINES
INFECTION PREVENTION
SEASON **2022/2023**

INTRODUCTION - GENERAL

- ▶ IBU assures that maintaining the safety and health of everyone involved at IBU events remains a priority in all planning processes
- ▶ The COVID-19 pandemic has created profound challenges in the previous years. Some of the challenges that characterized the initial phase of the pandemic have eased in their intensity, such as the need for quarantine and physical isolation. However, continued monitoring of the situation and the responses needed will be necessary also in the oncoming season.
- ▶ Respiratory infections, most often caused by viruses, are the most common cause for absence from competition and training in endurance sports.
- ▶ Now that the restrictions caused by the pandemic are being lifted, also other viruses than SARS-CoV-2 will be spreading easier and cause respiratory infections. For example Influenza A (flu) can cause a respiratory infection that often can keep the athlete from training for weeks, and the flu season coincides with the international biathlon competition season.
- ▶ Same procedures that prevent the spreading of COVID-19 will also limit spreading of other respiratory infections.
- ▶ The intention of these Guidelines is to assist in the general set-up and behavior to prevent spreading of any respiratory viruses, including SARS-CoV-2, Influenza A, RSV and Pertussis.
- ▶ Stricter or more specific plans and detailed procedures might be defined in close cooperation with the OCs regarding the current situation, as well as national and regional rules and restrictions.
- ▶ The decision about the allowance of spectators and guests lies solely with the OCs according to valid restrictions or advices of the responsible health authorities. Anyway this decision will be made in close consultation with IBU.
- ▶ **NOTE for all following recommendations and in general:** National/local regulations might differ and (if stricter) have to be fully accepted and followed!

RESPONSIBILITY



► **Communication**

Monitoring
Reporting

► **Behaviour**

„Act as you want others to act“

DISTANCE



► **Limited contacts**

► **Isolated sick persons**

► **Digitalized processes**

Offices
Media

HYGIENE



► **Masks in certain situations**

► **Hand-Washing**

► **Disinfection**

► **Respiratory Hygiene**
(e.g. coughing)

► **Cleaning plans**

COMMUNICATION INFORMATION

- ▶ Since the canalized and fast communication is a key factor for detection and prevention of potential spreading, the OC shall compile a document summarizing potential Covid-19 prevention measures planned and undertaken that are established in accordance with local rules and regulations. (if applicable)
- ▶ A communication of these measures shall also be published and sent to all other accredited participants (e.g. broadcasters, media, sponsors, Siwidata, etc). Spectator information (if allowed) shall also be prepared and communicated with eventual ticket sales and/or other channels e.g. social media
- ▶ It is crucial that all provisions in place are communicated clearly to all participants in advance through channels identified as adequate
- ▶ Please include the information and awareness as well as eventual updates during the event in the Team Captain meetings and/or other briefings for other participants

RESPONSIBILITY



TESTING / MONITORING

- ▶ The OC must have direct contact to local health authorities to assist teams and other participants to immediate medical care and be aware of the local Covid-19 regulations
- ▶ If required by national regulations, access to Covid-19 testing must be provided
- ▶ Additionally test possibilities for symptomatic persons shall be offered by OC to facilitate access (e.g. doctors/hospitals)
 - **Covid-19**
 - **Influenza A**
 - **RSV**
 - **Pertussis**
- ▶ Participants are required to fully comply with the respective policy applicable
- ▶ Regular/Mandatory preventive testing is not foreseen by IBU but each individual and/or teams can implement their own procedure

RESPONSIBILITY



BEHAVIOUR

- ▶ „Act as you want others to act“
- ▶ Encourage people to act responsibly and remind **to maintain a high level of personal hygiene, including handwashing and minimising physical contact**

RESPONSIBILITY



VACCINATION

- ▶ **NO mandatory vaccination status required by IBU** (national regulations might differ and have to be fully accepted → **non-vaccinated may be denied access to certain countries/events**)
- ▶ Full vaccination status is recommended and it should be kept updated **according to individual situation and the recommendation of the country of residence** (including all potential infectious diseases as e.g. Covid-19, Influenza A, RSV, Pertussis etc.).

RETHINK/REFLECT CONTACTS

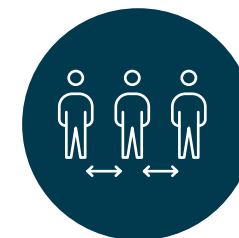
- ▶ Reconsider your own health status before you meet other people and/or travel with the team
- ▶ Close contacts in crowded areas without protective measures increase the risk of infection
- ▶ Teams should implement a policy that only healthy athletes travel with their team to protect others and ensure **team performance/success during the whole season**

For OCs: Review all areas to enable people to remain the necessary distance to protect themselves

Critical areas can be for example (but not exclusively):

- Catering Zones
- Waiting / Changing / Doping Control
- Mixed Zone
- Officials' rooms
- Hospitality (if existing – for partners / invited guests)
- Spectators stands (if existing)

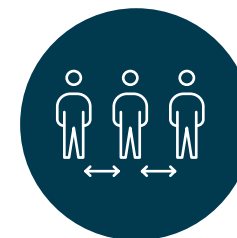
DISTANCE



DIGITALIZED PROCESSES

- ▶ As digital as possible (competition entries, starting lists, results, analyses, etc.)

DISTANCE



CEREMONIES

- ▶ Ceremonies outside the venue (public areas) are **not recommended or requested by IBU***
- ▶ If such ceremonies are planned by OC, teams are **not required to participate!***

* Medal ceremonies at the WCH are the only exception and will be conducted as planned

MASKS

- ▶ No strict mask obligation but **recommended** to wear masks in shared/crowded indoor areas and in any kind of transport with other persons than own team / company. In case of national / local regulations stricter rules might apply.

HAND-WASHING

- ▶ Provide sufficient infrastructure including soap and paper towels
- ▶ Signage with description of proper procedure (minimum 20 seconds with soap and warm water + drying with single-use (paper) towel)

DISINFECTION

- ▶ Provide and use disinfection dispensers/sanitizers (multiple locations) with an alcohol-based liquid
- ▶ Use those disinfection regularly and properly
- ▶ Washing of clothes, especially (ski) gloves & sports gear that may contain “body fluids” is recommended frequently (check options with hotels)

HYGIENE



RESPIRATORY HYGIENE

- ▶ Stay home or in single hotel rooms when infection symptoms occur to minimize risk of transmission of infections to others
- ▶ Cover your mouth and nose with your bent elbow or tissue when you cough or sneeze and throw away the tissue in a waste container
- ▶ Afterwards wash / disinfect your hands

HYGIENE



VENUE MEAL SERVICES / FAMILY CLUB

- ▶ Alternatives to buffet service, e.g. ready food bags, snacks, fruits are possible; limit interaction between volunteers and „guests“
- ▶ Prepare as much as possible in the dining area/s before the teams arrive
- ▶ Personell wearing of masks / mouth-nose face covering when serving is recommended

WASTE MANAGEMENT

- ▶ Dispose any waste at provided bins

CLEANING PLANS

- ▶ Review and ensure a regular cleaning schedule
- ▶ Regular air changing in closed rooms
- ▶ Cleaning of hotel rooms to be coordinated with teams (times / frequency)

HYGIENE

