

# Canton Parks & Recreation

## T-Ball & Coach Pitch COVID-19 Safety Protocol

*Protocol is subject to change based on Phase 3 reopening guidelines*

**Update 8/18/20:** Per the recent executive orders from the state, “effective immediately, any person in a public place in Connecticut, whether indoors or outdoors, who does not maintain a safe social distance of approximately six feet from every other person shall cover their mouth and nose with a mask or cloth face-covering” (Executive Order No. 7NNN). Parents should remain outside of the field of play and if within 6 ft of another household should wear a face covering. Additionally, per Sector Rules for Sports, “while engaged in the active play of sports or strenuous activities, athletes do not need to wear a face covering. However, athletes shall wear facemasks at all other times” (Sector Rules).

**Pre-Screening:** All staff, volunteer coaches and players will be asked to conduct health self-assessments prior to arrival at the fields. Anyone presenting with any symptoms will be asked to remain at home.

**Equipment:** It is recommended that all players have their own equipment whenever possible – glove, bat, helmet. Canton Parks & Rec will have balls at each field that will be sanitized by a staff member at the end of each program and whenever possible during play. Bats and helmets will be available if needed, but it is preferred each participant has their own equipment.

**Arriving at the fields:** Participants and volunteer coaches will be directed to their designated area of play for the day. Each participant, staff and volunteer coach will need to hand sanitize before touching the balls. Parents/guardians will not be able to enter the playing area and are asked to sit outside of the field of play while maintaining social distance.

**During play:** Participants will be socially distanced as much as possible during the practice and game portions of the program. Participants will not need to wear masks – though it is recommended for participants to wear masks while waiting to bat or when social distancing cannot be maintained while they are not playing.

**Leaving the fields:** Participants and coaches will clear the fields promptly at the end of the program to ensure the staff has enough time to sanitize used equipment.

**Social Distancing:** In a continued effort to keep participants, coaches and staff safe, social distance will be maintained wherever feasible. Due to the nature of the game there will be instances when participants will be within six feet of each other when playing (i.e. standing on base).

**Other safety measures:**

- No handshakes/personal contact celebrations: This include high fives, fist/elbow bumps, chest bumps or group celebrations
- No sharing of drinks or snacks: Participants, volunteer coaches and staff should bring their own personal drinks to all activities
- Volunteer coaches: All volunteer coaches will be required to attend a brief Zoom training. Coaches must wear a mask at all times when on the fields with players.
- Spectators: All parents/guardians must wait on the perimeter of the playing area to ensure proper distancing between others spectators as well as players, staff and coaches.
- PPE: Volunteer coaches and staff must wear masks at all times. Participants will not be required to wear masks, but social distancing will be monitored.
- Format of program: The format will remain the same for the program. The first 30 minutes will be practice, followed by a game.
- Hand sanitizer: Staff will distribute hand sanitizer, but players and coaches are encouraged to bring their own as well.