



Orchard Park Little League

- Plan for Return to Play
- Baseball and Softball 2020
- Presentation to Board of Directors
- May 31, 2020

COVID-19

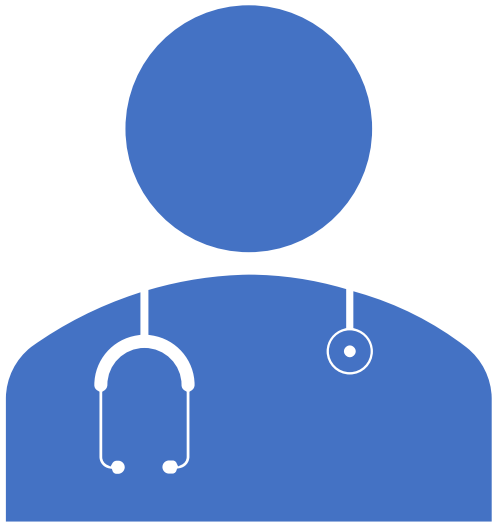
facts

- RNA Virus SARS-CoV2 is the virus, COVID-19 is the disease
- First identified in China Dec, 2019
- First identified in WNY Early March, 2020
- Schools closed March 13, 2020
- NY Pause March 16, 2020
- Phase 1 Reopening May 18, 2020 based on
 - Decreasing cases
 - Decreasing hospitalizations (open ICU beds)
 - Increased testing
 - Contact tracing

More COVID-19 facts

- The fear is the asymptomatic carrier, the high transmission rate, the severity of disease and the lack of treatments
- Transmission is (presumably) via 3 routes:
 - Contact – Droplet - Airborne
- People with underlying disease (heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes, immunocompromise) are most at risk
 - Asthma does NOT seem to increase risk
- Patients over 60 have highest mortality BUT this does not mean NO risk for younger patients
- Emerging data about the pediatric multisystem inflammatory syndrome
- There is NO proven therapy (earlier suggestions may be harmful)

Since March...



- We better understand the disease
- Hospitals and individuals better understand that PPE (personal protective equipment) works and they have had time to acquire more
- Businesses have had time to make changes to increase opportunity for staff/customer protection
- There is capacity in the hospitals to manage patients

Goals



Develop a pathway for a safe return to play



Make available to our players the benefits of youth sports while minimizing their risk (can't eliminate risk)



Establish ourselves as leaders in this effort



Be good community partners



Support and engage our families

References

2020 Little League Season Resumption Guide

NYS Return to Play Protocol for Baseball and Softball

Aspen Institute – COVID-19 Risk Assessment

USOPC Guidance – Return to Training and Sport
Event Planning

St. Louis Health Care System Guide to Restarting
Youth and High School Sports

CDC Considerations for Returning to Youth Sports

Little League Preparation Checklist

- Confirm board members/volunteers still willing and available to participate
- Determine timeline of season/field availability
- Develop guidelines for return to play
- Develop refund policy (rollover vs refund)
- Update registration
- Ensure insurance
- Communicate plan



Why Baseball and Softball?

Low to moderate risk

Outdoors = no issues with ventilation

Potential points of transmission

Ease in separating players (no bench in dugout)

Ease of separating fans

Virus on baseball – transmission by contact

Tags – transmission by droplet or airborne

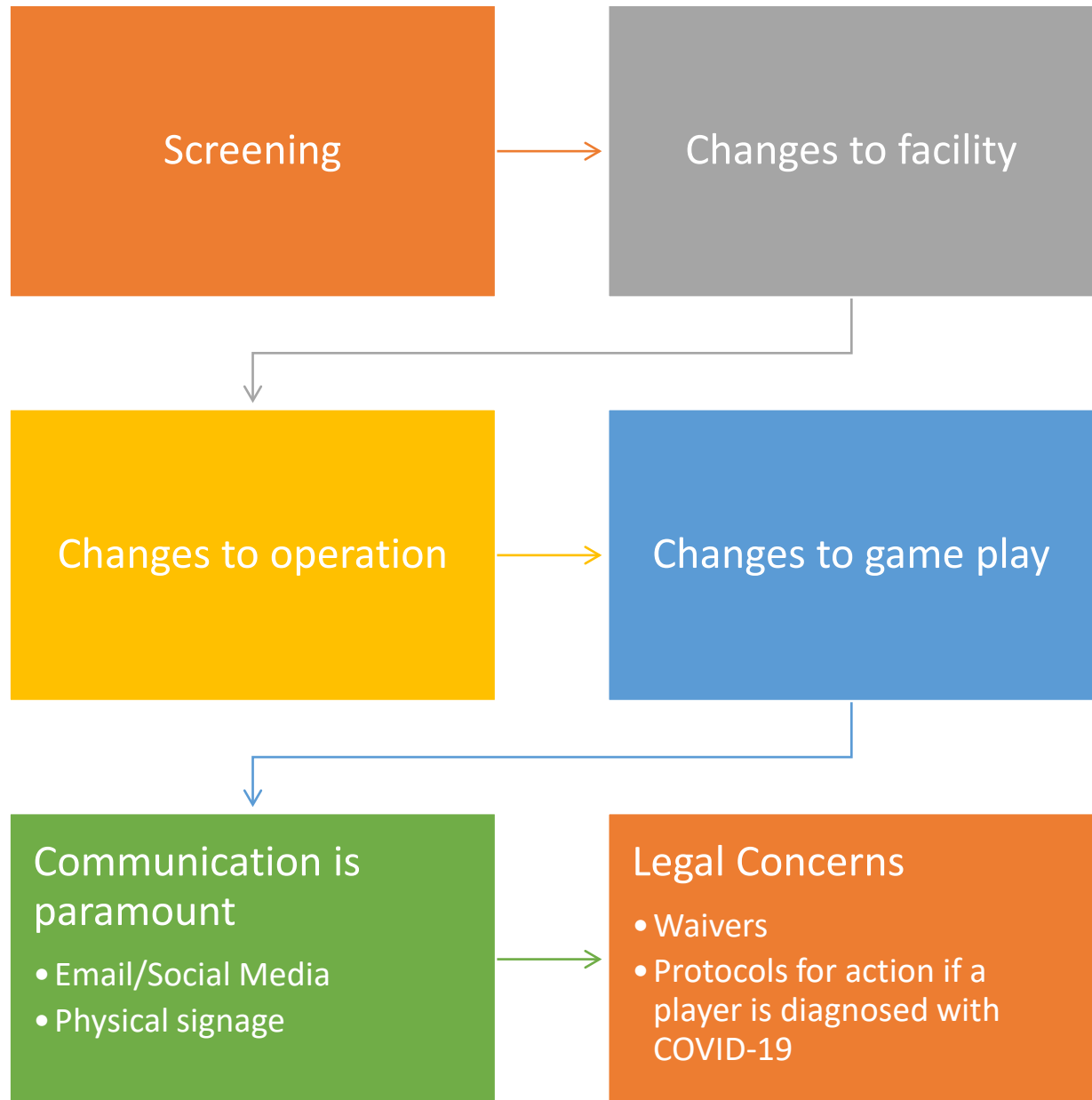
When?

Follow protocols and recommendations of national, state, county, and town

Youth sports have an advantage

- Residence with families (no hotels)
- Travel to and from games with immediate household (no buses)

How?



General Principles



Institute screening protocol

Potentially sick individuals stay home
High risk players/family members stay home



Maintain physical distancing of 6 feet at all times or mask



Limit shared equipment – baseballs/softballs only and team-specific (on defense and labeled)



Increased communication



Facilities must comply with state regulations



Staggered arrival times, efficient entry and exit

Screening of Athletes



Widespread Education

Coaches
Staff
Families



Regular temperature monitoring at home

Can be inaccuracies in measurement on site
Issues with clinical engineering/maintenance of onsite thermometers



Self-reporting of symptoms

Fever >100 degrees
Sore throat
Loss of taste/smell
Cough/shortness of breath
Diarrhea



Checklist before each game

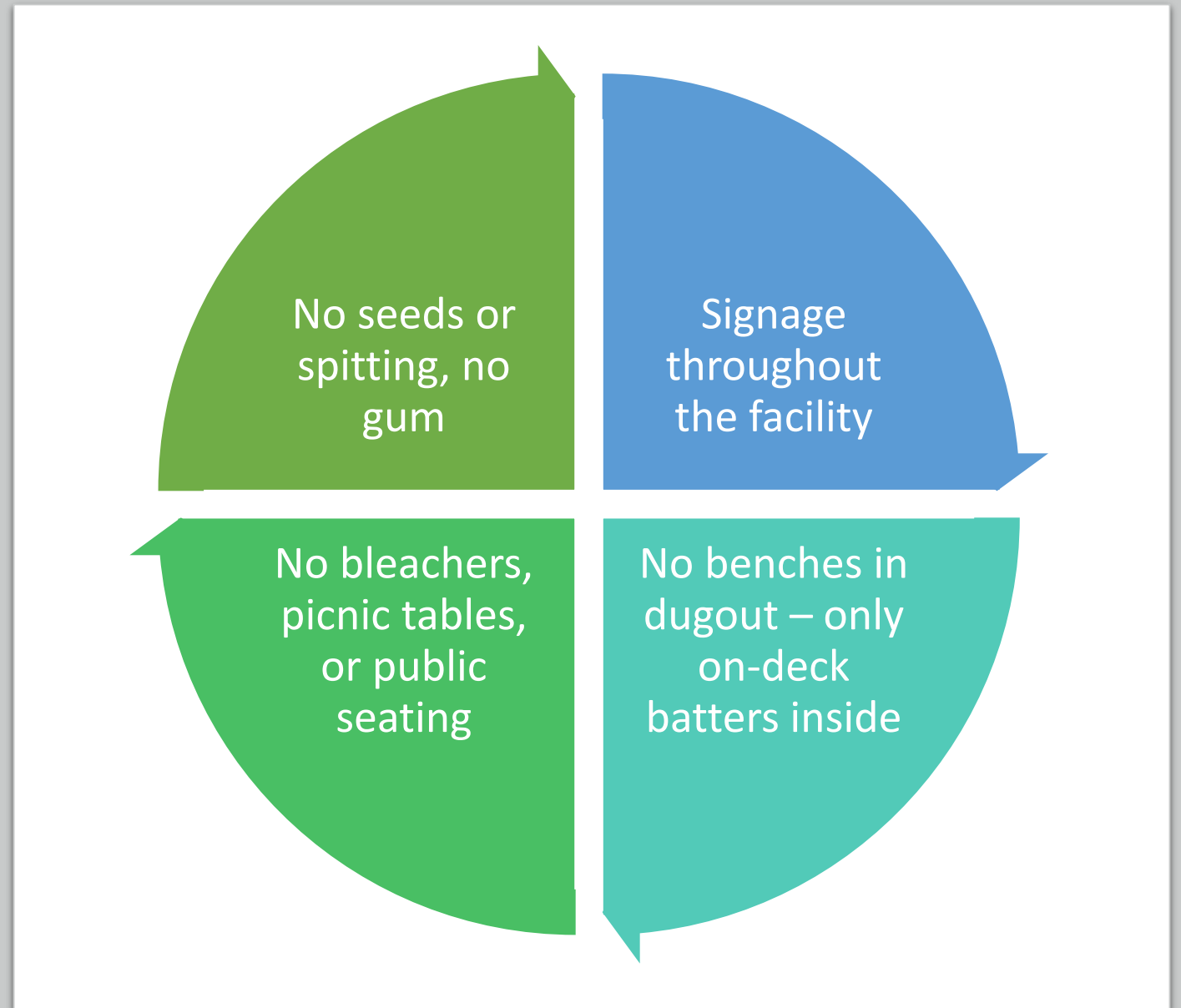
Coaches have rosters
Record attendance
Parents attest to player having no symptoms



Changes to Facility – General

- Increase signage as to new practices
- Traffic patterns (ingress-egress)
- Bathrooms
 - 1 family at a time
 - Monitor (assigned position)
 - Sanitize frequently
- Increased cleaning of high frequency touch points
- Hand sanitizer stations installed
 - Each dugout
 - Each bathroom
 - Snack shack
- Snack shack – decision as to whether prepackaged items are ok
 - 1 worker
 - Vending machines

Changes to Facility – Field of Play



Changes to Operations

Increased board member presence (enforce procedures)

Staggered start times

Spectators, officials, and coaches masked

Players do not mask on field (but allowed if desired)

No shared equipment except for ball

Labeled team-specific balls

Plate meetings with umpire/1 coach from each team only

Umpire behind pitcher

No post-game handshake – hat tips on 1st and 3rd baselines

Changes for Players/Families



Provide own seating (*Consider 10 x 10 tents for families*)



No spectators at practices



Masks required at games for families and for players not on the field



No shared water bottles



No team coolers



Families must remain together (no group play)

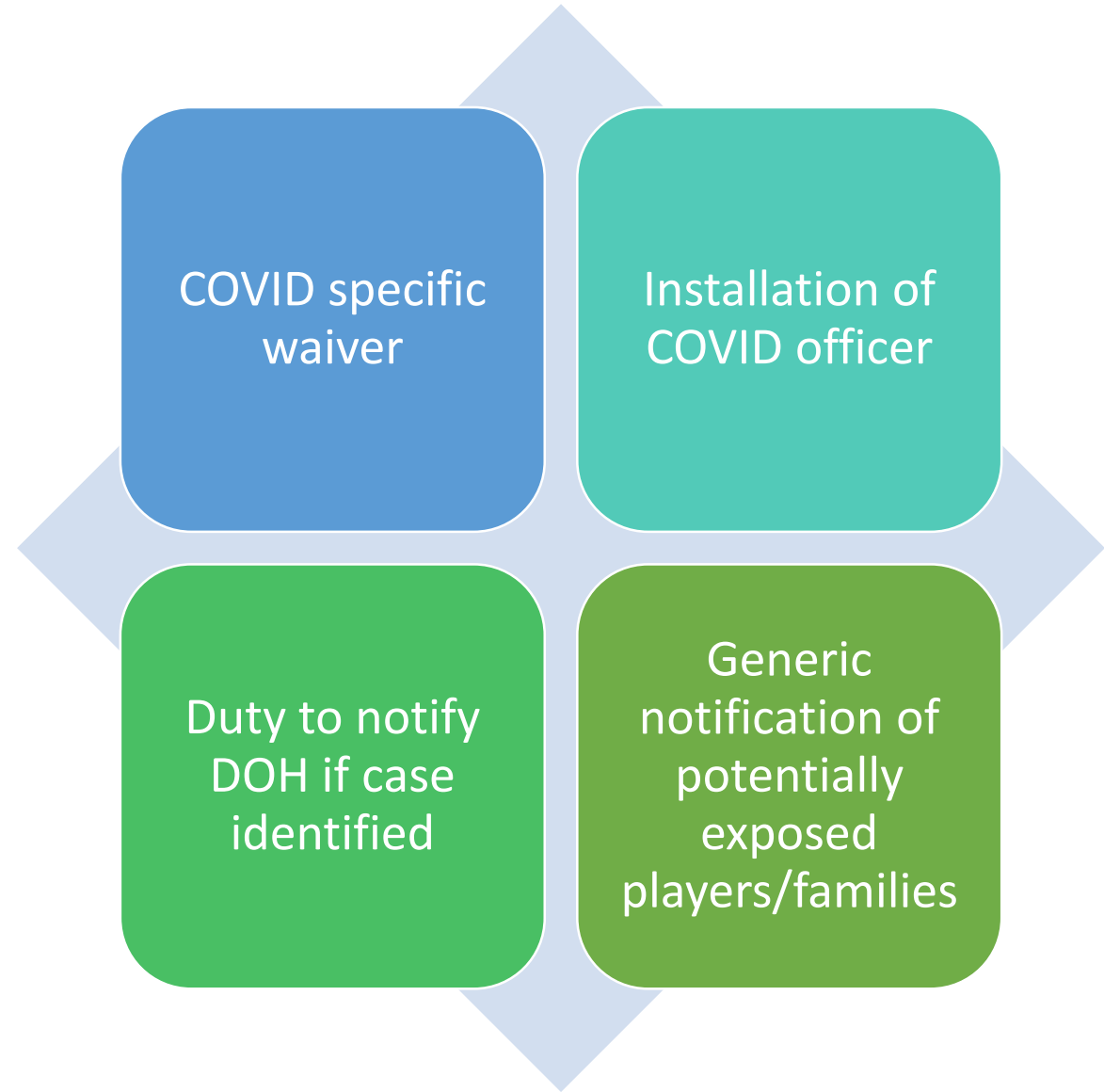
Changes to Play

Rules remain the same

Electronic scorekeeping
(?universal GameChanger)

Foul balls retrieved by
players, coaches, or officials

Legal Considerations



Social changes



NO PARADE OR
PICTURE DAY



NO BASES LOADED
FUNDRAISER



T SHIRT SALE



WEEKLY RAFFLE OR
VIRTUAL BASKET
RAFFLE



FOOD TRUCKS
(FUNDRAISERS)

Communication is Paramount



Emails – before, during, and after



Text alerts



Social Media

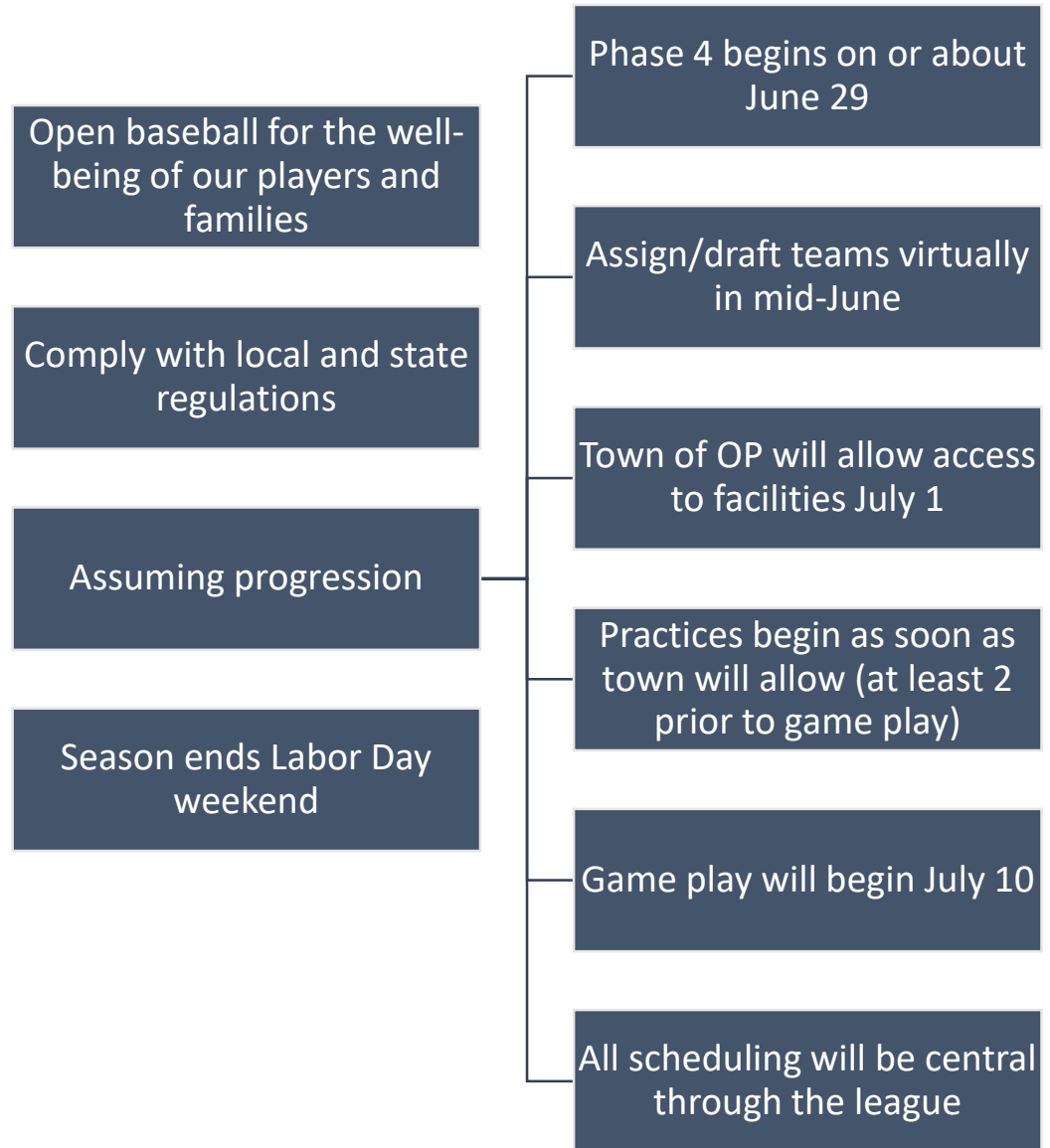


Signage at facility (including reference to social media)



Media coverage if needed

So what is the goal and the timeline?



There may be no crying in baseball, but...



I am sooo ready to cry during the start of the first game,

