

2019-nCoV Coronavirus information for tournaments

In light of the recent outbreak of the novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) in Wuhan, China, the ITF is taking precautions to protect athletes, staff, and spectators. The virus is highly contagious and its symptoms can range from mild respiratory illness to (in extreme circumstances) death. The attached Coronavirus flyer is posted on the ITF website for reference. This flyer should also be posted at tournaments. Our goal is to educate athletes and staff in order to protect them from this virus and prevent its further spread. Cooperation by tournament medical staff, together with local/national/international health authorities, is of paramount importance. This document serves as a guideline for tournaments to implement all necessary precautions and ensure appropriate health and safety measures are in place.

Role of the Tournament Doctor

It is the role of the tournament doctor to provide all relevant information and instruction regarding the Coronavirus to tournament staff prior to the event.

- The tournament doctor must be aware of the relevant government guidelines in place in case an individual attending, working, or competing in that event is infected.
- If an athlete presents with flu-like symptoms, tournament doctors should take all necessary action, including isolation, in case the athlete is presenting with the Coronavirus. Higher suspicion of Coronavirus should apply to athletes who have been in mainland China or other areas with significant numbers of Coronavirus cases, or in prolonged contact with a 2019-nCoV infected person in the last 14 days.
- The tournament doctor must have a plan in place to quickly and efficiently implement a mass quarantine procedure if necessary.
- The tournament doctor is responsible for arranging any ambulance transfers to a hospital with an isolation ward facility or infectious disease unit as warranted.
- The tournament doctor is responsible for notifying all relevant health authorities that a suspected Coronavirus case has emerged as this will assist in guiding the next steps, including formal testing for 2019-nCoV.
- Treatment: Antibiotics and current antivirals are not effective. The treatment is symptomatic. Many individuals without underlying chronic medical illnesses sustain a minor case of Coronavirus and may be treated at home. Respiratory masks, aggressive disinfecting of high-touch surfaces and hand washing (for at least 20 seconds) are key factors to prevent onward contamination. Avoid turning off water or opening doors with cleaned hands. Alcohol based (60%) hand sanitizers may be used.
- Clearance to play for an athlete with a confirmed case of 2019-nCoV may be considered after a period of 14 days from onset of symptoms AND all symptoms have resolved AND the athlete is afebrile for at least 48 hours. All such players must receive medical clearance, and applies to athletes already in the tournament as well as those who are returning to competition post viral illness.
- The Incapacity regulation, in conjunction with the ITF Sport Science & Medicine Commission will determine next steps if a medical case presents on-site requiring implementation of the rule.
- It is recommended that, once past the infectious stage (14 days), athletes do not come on-site as this risks transmission of the virus to others and delays their recovery time.

Tournament Directors

If an athlete or staff member is suspected of being infected with the Coronavirus, the tournament director, tournament doctor and/or sports physiotherapist and the ITF should be notified immediately. In such cases, tournaments should:

- Provide athletes, staff, and spectators with masks.
- Increase hand washing and provide (60% alcohol based) hand sanitisation stations inside and outside the tournament venue.
- Ensure that surfaces in communal areas are sterilised throughout the day.

- Ensure that food services meet appropriate hygiene standards, with all individuals handling food wearing personal protection equipment including aprons, gloves, and masks. Food and beverages should not be sourced from areas of contamination or exposure.
- Limit or cancel all activities in which athletes are required to participate directly with the public.

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Coronavirus Disclaimer

The contents of this document are for informational purposes only and are not intended to serve as or be a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. This document should not be relied on as health or personal advice, and questions about diagnosis and treatment of Coronavirus should be directed to a doctor or other qualified healthcare provider. Furthermore, professional medical advice should not be disregarded nor should seeking such advice be delayed because of anything noted in this document. Any reliance or adherence to the information provided in this document is solely at your own risk. The ITF and its members, parents, subsidiaries, affiliates, and related companies and each of their respective officers, directors, employees, and agents are in no way liable nor responsible for the accuracy, completeness, or usefulness of the contents of this document, nor for any damages, losses, or other consequences that result from any decisions, subsequent to, or based on, this document.