



FIRST Tech Challenge New Jersey

COVID-19 Health and Safety Policy

FIRST® is a global robotics community that prepares young people for the future.



Overview

Event staff and attendees participating in any FIRST Tech Challenge New Jersey (FTCNJ) event should recognize that any gathering poses an increased risk of COVID-19 exposure and spread. *FIRST*® believes that the best path toward ending the COVID-19 pandemic — and having a successful season — is through vaccination. We strongly recommend everyone who is eligible and has access to a vaccine consult with their physician and get vaccinated against COVID-19 as soon as possible.

More information about the safety and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines can be found at [The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) and the [World Health Organization](#) websites.

FTCNJ has developed the following COVID-19 Health and Safety Policy to reduce the risk of coronavirus exposure and spread at this event. Safety recommendations are taken from the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Pre-Event

Stay Home if you:

- Have tested positive for COVID-19.
- Are waiting for COVID-19 test results.
- Are feeling unwell and/or have any of the following [COVID-19 symptoms](#).
 - Fever or chills
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Headache
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea
- Have had [close contact](#) (within 6 feet for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period) with a person who has tested positive for or who has symptoms of COVID-19 within the last 14 days, unless you have been fully vaccinated.



Contact Tracing

Contact tracing is key to slowing the spread of COVID-19 and helps protect the community by:

- Letting people know they may have been exposed to COVID-19 and should monitor their health for signs and [symptoms of COVID-19](#).
- Helping people who may have been exposed to COVID-19 get tested.
- Asking people to [self-isolate](#) if they have COVID-19 or develop symptoms of COVID-19 or to [self-quarantine](#) if they are a [close contact](#).

Prior to the event, all event staff/volunteers, coaches, and team members should register with *FIRST*, complete a “*FIRST* Consent and Release Form,” and coaches should bring the “Team Roster” to the event. All team members (youth and adults) must be listed on the “Team Roster.”

Contact information will be accessible to event organizers via the “Team Roster.”

If a person who attended an event tests positive for COVID-19, someone from the health department may call you to discuss important COVID-19 information, such as signs and [symptoms of COVID-19](#), [testing](#), and [quarantine](#). Discussions with health department staff are confidential. This means that your personal and medical information will be kept private and only shared with those who may need to know, like your health care provider.

Please review the information for [what to expect to happen during contact tracing](#), provided by the CDC.

Limiting Attendance

Only event staff, team members, and two coaches/mentors may attend any event.

FIRST Tech Challenge New Jersey COVID-19 Health and Safety Policy Acknowledgement Form

Each coach must agree to abide by the FIRST Tech Challenge New Jersey COVID-19 Health and Safety Policy, to share this policy and compliance expectations with their team members and their families, and to sign the FIRST Tech Challenge New Jersey COVID-19 Health and Safety Policy Affirmation Form and return the form to event organizers prior to the start of the event.



Event Entry Requirements

Health Check

A temperature screening and COVID-19 symptom screening of all event staff and attendees will be conducted upon entry. A temperature over 100.4 degrees F (38 degrees C) most often means the person has a fever caused by infection or illness.

Each person who has completed all event entry requirements and is approved to attend the event will receive a wrist band so they can easily move in and out of the venue without the need for rescreening.

Please be advised that if you have any [COVID-19 symptoms](#), you will not be permitted to enter the event.

Behavior Requirements

Face Masks

Face masks are required for all event staff and attendees and should always be worn in all event areas. Masks may be temporarily removed to accommodate eating and drinking.

- All event staff and attendees are required to bring their own masks. Masks will also be available upon request at the event entrance.
- Masks should [fit well](#) and be worn completely over the nose and mouth.
- The following mask types are **NOT** approved for use at this event:
 - Cloth masks with exhalation valves or vents since they allow respiratory droplets containing the virus to escape.
 - A face shield used alone without a face mask
 - Bandanas
 - Scarves
 - Ski masks
 - Balaclavas
- The following categories of people are exempt from the requirement to wear a mask at this event:
 - A person with a disability who cannot wear a mask, or cannot safely wear a mask, for reasons related to the disability.



- A person for whom wearing a mask would create a risk to workplace health, safety, or job duty as determined by the workplace [risk assessment](#).

Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette

Hand hygiene should be practiced and encouraged by all event staff and attendees.

- All event staff and attendees should [wash their hands](#) frequently (for example, before, during, and after check-in, touching garbage, using the restroom) with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Event staff and attendees should use hand sanitizer, available at hand sanitizing stations throughout the event, including before and after game play or practice field use or any other time that soap and water are not readily available.
- All event staff and attendees should refrain from singing or shouting, especially indoors. Please use alternate ways to celebrate like clapping, dancing, finger-snapping, etc.

Physical (Social) Distancing

Physical distancing will be practiced at this event.

- Keep [6 feet] of distance between yourself and people who don't live in your household or not part of your cohort (members of the same home team) whenever possible.
- Follow all physical distancing guidelines, including direction provided by event staff.
- Follow all signage and marker direction, such as those that are freestanding or on the ground, to indicate the appropriate direction of pedestrian movement or to maintain a safe physical distance from others.
- Do not greet others with physical contact (for example, handshakes) or celebrate with high-fives or fist bumps.

FIRST recognizes a single team as a cohort, which is not subject to the same [6-foot] physical distancing requirement. However, this exception only applies to members of the same team. In all other cases, the physical distancing requirements outlined in this policy remain in effect.

Signs and Messages

Comply with all COVID-19 health and safety signs that are displayed in waiting areas, near restrooms, in seating areas, and used to control traffic patterns and entrance and exit points.

Follow event staff instructions related to COVID-19 safety.



Policy Changes and Non-Compliance

Given the current trajectory of the pandemic, these guidelines may change with little notice up to and including event cancellation based on updates from the CDC and New Jersey State and local health authority guidelines.

The information contained in this document is not intended or implied to be a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. All content, including text and links, are provided for general informational purposes.

Any person entering any FTCNJ event is required to abide by this COVID-19 health and safety policy and the [FIRST Code of Conduct](#). Non-compliance may result in removal from an event and being barred from future participation in *FIRST* activities.

