



CYCLING CANADA GUIDELINES ON NATIONAL TEAM ACTIVITY DURING THE PANDEMIC

Revised on March 9, 2022

Purpose

This document is intended to help Cycling Canada make consistent decisions in how we support athletes and staff during the coronavirus pandemic.

The pandemic is evolving continually, and its impact varies widely from one country to another, and as a consequence Canadian and local health authorities' advice is changing all the time. At the same time, cycling events vary in importance and in quality of organization.

Any decision to attend an event must balance many conflicting factors and there is no simple formula, but the underlying principle is that we must prioritize the health and well-being of athletes and support staff, and the potential of spreading the coronavirus, ahead of sporting considerations.

Cycling Canada also recognizes that an athlete may choose to travel for reasons outside Cycling Canada's scope of responsibility, such as professional team obligations. We can offer advice and support to help the athlete make the appropriate decision, but we can neither oblige nor prevent travel. Nevertheless, we also recognize that our position may influence a decision to travel, and we bear a responsibility to use the best available information to protect the well-being of our athletes and staff.

Background

The rate of COVID-19 infections and severe illness has dropped significantly since the peak of the omicron wave in early 2022. Many of the restrictions put into place by regional health authorities – such as the requirement to show proof of vaccination – have been lifted or reduced, though certain requirements remain in place for international travel.

Cycling Canada will continue to take a nimble approach to national team activity that accounts for the circumstances particular to each event, the varying levels of support athletes need from Cycling Canada, and the rapid evolution of the pandemic. We will continue to plan our 2022 project calendars while assessing each project in advance based on a range of factors listed in appendix to this document.

This approach will help ensure we make consistent decisions; that we do not overlook important considerations when making them; and that we minimize the risk to the health of our athletes and to the public at large.

Decision making authority

Final decision-making authority on international travel rests with the Chief Sport Officer (CSO), who will evaluate the recommendations of the relevant national coaches and medical staff against the guidelines in this document.

These guidelines remain subject to any broader policies adopted by Cycling Canada and will be modified in due course if required. These guidelines do not take precedence over restrictions or conditions mandated by the UCI, race organizers or any relevant national or regional health authorities.

Cycling Canada decision-making process on national team activity

Cycling Canada runs projects overseas and within Canada, as well as running permanent and intermittent “Daily Training Environments” (DTEs) at several locations within Canada.

Cycling Canada will evaluate these projects and DTEs any time there is a new development that relates to the factors listed in Appendix A, and make a decision on whether to attend the project, modify it, or whether it is possible to postpone the decision. These decisions will be communicated to the affected athletes and staff as early as possible to allow them to adhere to COVID protocols, manage clothing orders and staffing, and adjust training and competition programs.

DTEs will be assessed any time there is a new development relating to the factors listed in Appendix A; on Cycling Canada’s ability to effectively manage the close contacts of the athletes attending the DTE; and the restrictions imposed by the facilities where training is taking place. Cycling Canada may decide to limit access to the DTE or pause training altogether.

Any questions regarding these guidelines can be directed to Chief Sport Officer Scott Kelly at scott.kelly@cyclingcanada.ca.

APPENDIX A: REQUIREMENTS AND FACTORS TO CONSIDER

Prior to any National Team activity, all athletes and staff must sign and submit the following documents found on the Cycling Canada website (<https://cyclingcanada.ca/resources/athlete-resources/rules-policies/>):

- Cycling Canada COVID-19 Out-of-Country Acknowledgement of Consent (for activities taking place outside Canada)
- Cycling Canada COVID-19 General Acknowledgement of Consent (for activities taking place within Canada)

The importance of the activity helps assess the balance of risk in attending it:

IMPORTANCE OF PROJECT	
1	World Championship/Major Games or preparation camp
2	World Cup/Nations Cup or preparation camp
3	Qualifying event for World Championship/Major Games or preparation camp
4	Development competition
5	Non-essential training camp

Please assess the concern or risk level of each of these factors as High, Medium or Low. If the majority of factors are rated Medium or High, additional measures should be put into place to reduce the risk. If this is not possible, it may be necessary to cancel the activity.

CONSULTATION	Level of risk or concern
Advice from CC medical staff	
Advice from Cycling Canada mental performance consultants	
Advice from the Canadian government on travel generally, and on travel to the location where the event is being held	
ATHLETES AND STAFF	Level of risk or concern
Pre-existing health conditions	
Athletes are minors or adults (minors = high concern)	
Athletes are part of CC performance pools (performance pools = low concern)	
PRE-TRAVEL CONDITIONS	Level of risk or concern
COVID situation where the athletes are (positivity rate, trend, etc.)	
Ability of athletes to train/prepare for the event effectively	
Ability to isolate and self monitor before travel	
Ability to conduct COVID tests prior to travel	
LOCAL CONDITIONS WHERE EVENT IS TAKING PLACE	Level of risk or concern
COVID positivity rate and trend	
Healthcare quality and capacity	
Adoption of masks, social distancing and other COVID measures	
International flights in and out	
Travel from arrival airport	
Safety around accommodation and meals	

Access to groceries, training equipment, etc.	
Ability to safely extend stay in the event of a positive test	
EVENT FORMAT	Level of risk or concern
Need to travel to multiple locations	
Number of locations competing athletes are travelling from	
Physical proximity of athletes to spectators, officials and media	
QUALITY OF ORGANIZATION	Level of risk or concern
COVID protocols published and in place	
Cycling Canada's confidence COVID protocols will be enforced	
Quality of communication with the organizer	
TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS	Level of risk or concern
Hours of travel	
Connecting flights to reach venue	
Time spent travelling versus time spent at venue	
"CONTROLLABILITY" OF EVENT ENVIRONMENT	Level of risk or concern
Members joining and leaving the team	
Accommodation	
Meals	
Training locations	
Warm-up and cool-down	
Team pits/feed zones	
Security of our team coolers/bottles/food	
Medical support on site	
ADDITIONAL COVID REQUIREMENTS	Level of risk or concern
COVID test timing and costs	
Potential uninsured costs	
Costs related to extended stay in the event of a positive test	
Costs related to flight cancellations	
Costs related to social distancing requirements (eg. single room bookings)	
Effect of COVID measures on athletes' performance and long-term progression	

APPENDIX B: RESOURCES

The sources below contain useful information regarding the pandemic and travel. Note that given the rapidly evolving situation Cycling Canada does not take responsibility for the accuracy of the information on these sites.

- Cycling Canada Vaccination Policy <https://cyclingcanada.ca/resources/athlete-resources/rules-policies/>
- World Health Organization: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>
- Government of Canada coronavirus information: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html>
- Government of Canada travel information: <https://travel.gc.ca/travel-covid>
- European Union travel restrictions: <https://reopen.europa.eu/en>
- U.S. travel restrictions: <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/coronavirus>
- UCI COVID protocols: <https://www.uci.org/covid-19-pandemic-international-events-protocols-for-organisation-and/2Cm1PAdb4wjLf6XswFgbiU>
- Cycling Canada COVID updates: https://www.cyclingcanada.ca/news/?news_sport=covid-19