

BASEBALL UMPIRE TESTING PROTOCOLS

Big 12

During the season, the Big 12 conference will require one weekly PCR test from umpires in addition to on-site antigen testing prior to each game (or start of a series).

Any umpire who previously had SARS-CoV-2 (Covid-19) should notify **Regina Everett** so that the umpire will be marked "exempt" from testing – mail-in PCR or on-site antigen – for 150 days following their infection UNLESS he/she develops a compatible syndrome (i.e., present again with symptoms worrisome for repeat COVID). Additionally, the individual will not be subject to contact tracing for a 90-day period. After 150 days, the individual will move back into the active testing/surveillance protocol. **Note: When calculating 90 or 150 days, use the date the positive test was administered as the starting date, not the date of the test result.**

PCR testing will be conducted by MAKO Medical and six (6) self-administered PCR testing kits have been sent (via FedEx) in advance of their first assignments. Test instruction are attached and please watch the following instructional video:

<https://spaces.hightail.com/receive/IIUO61TPsJ>.

Additionally, here are some important reminders:

1. **IMPORTANT!** Create a user profile by visiting MakoMedical.com and scanning the QR code on the attached document.
2. Your kit will include one (1) nasal swab and tube (with label); FedEx return labels and FedEx return envelopes.
 - Please clearly print your last name, first name, DOB on the test tube label.
 - Ex: EVERETT, REGINA 1/1/1980
 - Please clearly print your last name, first name, DOB and **16626** (Big 12 Baseball testing code) on a 3" x 5" note card or piece of paper. Place the note card inside your return envelope.
 - Ex: EVERETT, REGINA 1/1/1980 16600
3. You must return one sample swab, in the test tube, each week for testing.
4. Make sure the cap is **tight**.
5. Use a permanent marker and print an extremely large "★" star to the front and back of each FedEx return envelope. **This helps identify your sample for Big 12 testing.**
6. You must take the test on **Monday morning**, the same day you drop it off at the FedEx shipping location. Be sure to note the pick-up time at the FedEx shipping location. The kits are being sent to the MAKO lab in North Carolina and your sample is time sensitive. You may also drop at a FedEx drop box but just please be aware of the pickup time.
7. **Take a photo** of your return FedEx tracking label. This will assist in tracking your package if there is ever a delay in delivery.

Basic testing principles to follow:

- You should not take more than one PCR test a day.
- You should not take PCR tests on consecutive days.

Umpires were sent six (6) test kits to start the season. **Umpires must notify Regina Everett (reverett@big12sports.com) when they only have two (2) kits remaining for the Big 12 Conference** so additional kits may be sent based on assignments. Please put **BIG 12 UMPIRE TESTING** in the subject line of your email when requesting more kits.

For on-site testing, umpires should plan to arrive on-site three hours prior to the first game of a Conference series and tournament and two hours prior to midweek games unless a different time is previously arranged with host. Game managers will confirm exact time and location with umpires in advance. Please pay close attention to all instructions provided by game managers. Note: Umpires who are exempt from testing should plan to arrive 90 minutes prior to game.

The host institution will produce a “lab report” for umpires to upload to the NCAA dashboard. **It is the umpire’s responsibility to upload the on-site test result to the NCAA dashboard on the same day as receipt.**

Umpires must know that frequent testing does NOT replace the need to take additional precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19 or any other illness. Therefore, umpires must follow all mitigation plans communicated by the Big 12 Conference and Rich Fetchiet in regards to both travel and adjusted umpiring protocols and policies. This includes umpires NOT traveling together or congregating before testing has been completed.

WHEN TO SEND YOUR FIRST TEST KIT TO MAKO

If your FIRST assignment is on this day...		
Friday – Sunday, Feb. 19 – 21 ↓ ↓	Monday – Tuesday, Feb. 22 – 23 ↓ ↓	Wednesday, Feb. 24 ↓ ↓
Send your FIRST test to MAKO on this day...		
Monday, Feb. 15	Wednesday, Feb. 17	Monday, Feb. 22 (MUST ship no later than 10:00 am w/ FedEx)

IF TEST POSITIVE AT A GAME

- Each umpire must have a contingency plan if he/she tests positive prior to the game. In most cases, this would involve driving to a residence if feeling well enough. An institution may be able to provide suggestions for lodging, if needed.
- Additionally, it is requested that the umpire notify Rich Fetchiet if he/she becomes unavailable as a result of a test so contact tracing can begin immediately with other umpires and institutions that worked within the previous 48 hours.
- Follow CDC guidelines for infection. The umpire cannot return to officiating until his/her own private physician has cleared him/her. A letter should be secured from the physician and sent to Regina Everett.
 - The individual will not be subject to contact tracing or testing (mail-in PCR or on-site antigen) for a 150-day period. After 150 days, the individual will move back into the active testing/surveillance protocol.
- If an umpire believes a false positive has occurred, the umpire is responsible for securing additional testing at his/her own expense.
 - Retesting is allowable if there is concern for a false positive. The positive individual should not have symptoms or be considered a close contact.
 - To overturn a positive antigen test, a negative PCR (rapid or traditional lab based) is required and can immediately follow the antigen test.
 - To overturn a positive PCR, two lab-based negative PCRs (not POC) are required 24 hours apart.
 - The retest PCR may be collected immediately following the positive test

IF UMPIRE IS IDENTIFIED AS CLOSE CONTACT (BIG 12 QUARANTINE PERIOD)

An umpire who is identified as a close contact per CDC guidelines must immediately quarantine and may not officiate during this period. Big 12 policy allows officials to return after day 10 of quarantine if asymptomatic, but they must mask through day 14 and test on-site if they have assignments on days 11-14. Note that local health ordinances may supersede this policy.

COVID-19 VACCINE (BIG 12 POLICY)

At this time, individuals who have received COVID-19 vaccinations must still follow above testing and contact tracing policies.

IN SUMMARY

- Before submitting your FIRST test, make sure to sign-up to receive results from MAKO.
- Print an extremely large “★” star on the front and back of each FedEx return envelope.
- Clearly print your last name, first name, DOB on the test tube label.
- Clearly print your last name, first name, DOB and **16626** (Big 12 Baseball testing code) on a 3” x 5” note card or piece of paper.
- Take a photo of your return FedEx tracking label. This will assist in tracking your package if there is ever a delay in delivery.
- One PCR test a week during the season submitted on Monday mornings to MAKO Medical.
- Do not take multiple PCR tests on the same day.
- Do not take PCR tests on consecutive days.
- Upload results to NCAA dashboard upon receipt.
- If you become unavailable, please notify Rich Fetchiet immediately.
- For on-site antigen testing prior to each game on campus, game managers will confirm pre-game testing time, location and procedure (approx. 3 hours prior to game time of Conference series and tournaments and 2 hours prior to game time of midweek games).
- Make sure the institution provides a lab report. Umpire must upload institutional test result to the NCAA dashboard the same day as receiving the result.
- Notify Regina Everett (reverett@big12sports.com) when you only have two MAKO test kits remaining. Include **BIG 12 UMPIRE TESTING** in subject line.

UMPIRES TESTING NOTES FOR GAME MANAGERS (as of Feb. 9, 2021)

The purpose of this document is to provide instructions on how to access the list of umpires who do **not** need testing on-site. Additional information related to umpires/testing is provided for reference.

CLEARANCE LIST, aka DO NOT TEST list

Any umpire who previously had SARS-CoV-2 (Covid-19) will notify Regina Everett (baseball) or Maria Swanson (softball) so that the umpire will be marked “exempt” from testing – mail-in PCR or on-site antigen – for 150 days following their infection UNLESS he/she develops a compatible syndrome (i.e., present again with symptoms worrisome for repeat COVID). Additionally, the individual will not be subject to contact tracing for a 90-day period. After 150 days, the individual will move back into the active testing/surveillance protocol. **Note: When calculating 90 or 150 days, use the date the positive test was administered as the starting date, not the date of the test result.**

A “view-only” clearance Google Sheet of Big 12 baseball and softball umpires who do NOT require on-site antigen testing is linked below and will be updated frequently. Should you have any questions about the list please contact Regina Everett (Regina@Big12Sports.com / 214-208-1697) for baseball and Maria Swanson (mswanson@big12sports.com / 573-424-6608) for softball. This is the same link as the men’s and women’s basketball Clearance List.

Link to Clearance List:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1DG4Gdds_YduktHn-TPv0uE35AOUVl6Qj7RTv_ORGOdo/edit#gid=634347005

To enable email notifications when an update is made to the clearance list.

1. Go to the [Big 12 Basketball: Cleared Officials](#).
2. Sign in with an email compatible with Google Applications (i.e. @gmail.com).
3. Go to the Tools tab – select Notification Rules.
 1. Select Any Changes are Made.
 2. Select how often you would like to receive notifications via email: Daily Digest or Right Away.
4. When you receive your first email be sure notify@google.com is added to your Primary inbox. (Most likely your first email will show up in the “Updates” tab. If this happens select the email and drop the email into the “Primary” tab near the top left of your screen.)

UMPIRES TESTING POLICY

The Conference will conduct weekly PCR testing and antigen testing will occur in the locale of each university prior to the game (game managers to provide detailed testing information to umpires in pregame correspondence).

WHEN APPLICABLE: the Big 12 will allow an umpire with a SARS-CoV-2 antigen test taken the day before a midweek game or a weekend series/tournament to be used for the next game if the contest occurs the following day.

The umpire will be instructed to communicate such occurrences to the game manager in advance. Softball umpires will be asked to upload the result to the NCAA dashboard before the start of the game where the antigen was administered and have evidence of the test available for the next day game at a Big 12 institution.

Testing Summary

- Umpires should be antigen tested approximately 2 hours prior to a midweek game and 3 hours before the first game of a weekend series/tournament.

- Host must provide a printed test result (see sample form provided)
- Softball Umpire uploads test result to NCAA dashboard
- Testing should NOT occur if umpire is on the clearance list OR if umpire had negative antigen test the day before the game.
 - Umpire should inform game manager in advance if being tested the day before a game.
- If not testing, umpire to arrive approximately 90 minutes prior to the game

At this time, individuals who have received COVID-19 vaccinations must still follow above testing and contact tracing policies.

IF TEST POSITIVE AT A GAME

The following is what umpires have been told if they test positive at a game, noting the first step is to notify the liaison to umpires in order to find a replacement. Institutions should also have protocols in place, including reporting of results to appropriate agencies.

- Immediately notify Liaison.
- Each umpire must have a contingency plan if he/she tests positive prior to the game. In most cases, this would involve driving to a residence if feeling well enough. An institution may be able to provide suggestions for lodging, if needed.
- The umpire cannot return to officiating until his/her own private physician has cleared him/her. A letter should be secured from the physician and sent to the liaison and Conference office.
- If an umpire believes a false positive has occurred, the umpire is responsible for securing additional testing at his/her own expense. Retesting is allowable if there is concern for a false positive. The positive individual should not have symptoms or be considered a close contact.
 - To overturn a positive antigen test, a negative PCR (rapid or traditional lab based) is required and can immediately follow the antigen test.
 - To overturn a positive PCR, two lab-based negative PCRs (not POC) are required 24 hours apart.
 - The retest PCR may be collected immediately following the positive test

INFORMATION FROM EVENT MANAGERS PROVIDING UMPIRE "DAY-OF" DETAILS

- Advance Information
 - Game managers should communicate with umpires in advance of scheduled competition. In addition to confirming parking, entrances, and other general information, game managers must provide on-site testing information, including:
 - Testing times, location and protocol
 - Recommended time of arrival for umpires
 - Designated point of entry for umpires to use to enter/exit the facility
 - Screening requirements/protocols needed before entry, if applicable
 - Availability of locker room and/or meeting space (including holding room while waiting for test results)
 - Availability of showers, towels and water bottles
 - Protocol for use of the athletic training facility and services
- Arrival/Testing
 - Umpires must drive in separate vehicles to keep close contact to a minimum for contact tracing.

- Host institution must test umpires prior to the game (approximately 2 or 3 hours prior). A lab report must be provided to the umpire. Softball umpires must may upload the result to the NCAA dashboard.
- Locker Room
 - The umpires locker room shall be disinfected prior to the arrival of the umpires to the facility. Once occupied by the umpires, the locker room is only accessible by the umpires.
- Masks must be worn by umpires at ALL times while in the facility.
- Guests are not allowed in the umpires locker room.

NEXT PAGE: Results Documentation Form