



MEMORANDUM

TO: Club Owners
Club Presidents
General Managers
Head Coaches
Infection Control Officers

FROM: Commissioner Goodell

DATE: October 5, 2020

SUBJECT: COVID Protocol Compliance

Since the beginning of the pandemic, we have acknowledged and planned for the need to adjust and adapt throughout our season. We know that as long as the Covid-19 virus is in our communities that we will have cases in the NFL.

The preseason and the first three weeks of the regular season proved that strict adherence to the mandatory protocols jointly developed with the NFLPA make it possible to play football in a safe and responsible environment. Each club has taken very significant steps and made substantial investments to achieve this. Our testing regimen is the most comprehensive of any sport or business; our contact tracing program exceeds similar efforts anywhere in the world; and our protocols have been shown to stop the spread of the virus when and where it inevitably appears. We can say this because since the start of training camp there have been positive tests on most clubs, but other than one case of spread, the virus has been contained and operations have not been disrupted.

The protocols do not implement themselves, however, and our progress thus far cannot lead us to complacency. Complacency is our shared opponent. We must reinforce our commitment to full adherence to our mandatory safety protocols and best practices.

The consequences of rescheduling or even missing games are obvious. Our fans will be deprived of games. Competitive inequities will be introduced into our season. Players will not be paid for games not played and clubs will similarly suffer financial consequences.

As we have said before: act as if every person you come in contact with has a COVID infection and take appropriate precautions. At a minimum, always wear face coverings, maintain physical distancing and practice healthy hand hygiene.

During our discussion today we reviewed changes to the protocols agreed to with the NFLPA designed further to limit the chances of the virus spreading within a club. These changes include a longer onboarding process for free agent tryouts, bans on gatherings outside of the club facility, limitations on the number of tryouts permitted per week and implementation of a league-wide video monitoring system to ensure compliance with the protocols - particularly the mandate that all staff and players wear PPE while in a club facility and on travel at all times.

We also discussed additional steps to minimize risk: consider holding all meetings virtually, wear masks or shields during practices and walk-throughs, decrease the size of the traveling party, reduce the time spent in lunchrooms and locker rooms, and consult the proximity tracking device information daily to identify areas where your club could eliminate close contacts.

There have been breaches to the protocols and individual players, staff, and clubs have been disciplined as a result. We will not only conduct reviews in cases of multiple positive tests at one club, but the league and union will continue to conduct inspections of club facilities to ensure protocol compliance. If it is determined that club personnel or players failed to have followed the protocols, discipline will be issued and will escalate where noncompliance continues.

Protocol violations that result in virus spread requiring adjustments to the schedule or otherwise impacting other teams will result in additional financial and competitive discipline, including the adjustment or loss of draft choices or even the forfeit of a game.

Simply put, compliance is mandatory. Now is the time to recommit ourselves to our protocols and best practices for the duration of the season.

Take care of yourselves, your families and each other. Please reach out to any members of the league staff who participated in the meeting today with any questions.