

FIS World Cup Risk Management Covid-19 Testing Protocol

The FIS World Cup Testing Protocol defines the procedures, requirements, roles and responsibilities for the persons who are an integral part of carrying out FIS World Cup events to take measure to the best extent possible to minimise any risk of Covid-19.

There are four population groups who are subject to compulsory adherence to this protocol who are closely interacting in the staging of the FIS World Cup Event

1. Athletes, Team Support Staff, Equipment Service
2. FIS Officials
3. Accredited Groups: Broadcasters, Rights Holders, Sponsors and Partners, Event Management, Timing & Data Service, Suppliers, etc.
4. Local Organising Committee: Officials, Personnel, Workforce, Volunteers

Targeted intelligent test protocols will be defined for each population group.

Responsibility of all Persons

In order to ensure the FIS World Cup and an event is not placed at risk from a Covid-19 outbreak and consequences, it is the responsibility of every person to adhere to this policy, follow all procedures and instructions and behave in a disciplined manner at all times.

Serological (blood) testing during pre-competition control

Serological (blood) testing for antibodies (Roche or Abbott) analysed by the WADA accredited laboratory in Cologne has been added to the out-of-competition doping control testing protocol since August. This determines if an athlete has had Covid-19, if it is positive for antibodies and is therefore immune for a period of time.

The results of such tests will be recorded in the “FIS Immunity Passport” and the athlete is not obliged to undergo any Covid-19 tests for the period of immunity. Testing will be repeated every 8 weeks. Serological testing will be carried out as part of the doping control blood testing throughout the season on all other athletes without a positive serological test immunity result.

Testing prior to arrival at Event / Venue

Every person who wishes to access a FIS Event must have and present a negative Covid-19 PCR Test (saliva/swab test) result carried out within the previous 72 hours (3 days) before arrival at the Event for the first time and complete a questionnaire (see appendix 1). The questionnaire will be permanently available on the FIS website for easy updating to present at every event. There may also be national requirement to respond to additional questions at events.

Testing on arrival and during the Event (training and competition days)

The Organiser will download the national/local tracking app onto the person’s mobile device and activate it.

PCR testing of FIS representatives, athletes, support staff and accredited personnel every three days is required.

For persons arriving at the Event without a valid test result, they will not be permitted access and must conduct such a test and obtain the result before the Organiser issues accreditation or allows access to the venue.

Obligations of the Organiser:

- To facilitate provision to onsite or nearby PCR Testing with lengthy, flexible opening hours and adequately staffed during potential high traffic periods.
- Security of the Venue to prevent unauthorised access
- Best efforts for the hotels to prevent unauthorised access/access to event participants
- Testing of Local Organising Committee persons in accordance with the FIS Protocol
- Publish details of the responsible LOC Health Coordinator in the Organisers Event Information and provide 24 hour availability.

Costs for testing are carried by the person or responsible group (i.e. team, FIS, Organiser for workforce, broadcaster, etc.)

Note: FIS can facilitate the organisation of PCR testing for Organisers through its centrally managed set-up

Test Execution

PCR testing may be conducted on three types of specimen: mouth/nose swab or saliva. The mouth/nose swab is currently the most widespread method of collection. A long swab is inserted into the cavity between the nose and the mouth or through the mouth until the pharyngeal area and rotated several times. The collector must wear sufficient personal protection equipment. The swab is inserted into a tube and sealed.

Saliva will be collected from the mouth by the athlete/person themselves, added to a container marked with a unique number, sealed, and shipped to a Covid-19 certified laboratory.

From a collection and processing perspective, saliva samples are simple and feasible for collecting a high frequency of samples from professional athletes.

Collection is efficient and non-invasive and does not require a medical professional. Samples are safe for the collectors and do not require the individual to be in close contact with the individual providing the specimen.

Saliva kits are easy for collectors and safer to handle as the buffer deactivates the virus while stabilising the RNA. This means that the person collects the saliva sample themselves from the mouth and when added to the container the virus is automatically deactivated. The saliva is analysed for Covid-19 by the “PCR” method commonly used by all State Authorities. The analyses can be conducted by WADA-accredited anti-doping laboratories that have adapted to the current Covid environment as a Clinical Lab.

Results Recording and Tracking

Testing and results will be self-recorded by the person in the “Covid-19 FIS Immunity Passport”, which also contains the person’s whereabouts for a rolling 14 day period.

The data will be stored in the FIS centralised platform that conforms to GDPR personal data privacy regulations. It will be used by the FIS Covid-19 Expert to monitor and determine any further actions which may arise. The data will be available to provide to the next and future Organisers to facilitate approvals from their national authorities to carry out the event by presenting evidence of the measures undertaken to ensure the FIS World Cup has implemented best practice measures that there will be no Covid-19 transmitted.

Covid-19 Positive Sample

A positive result will automatically be reported to the national authorities and national procedures for quarantine will be applied. Generally, subject to the national regulations:

1. if the person has no symptoms, self-quarantine for a defined period of time. If no symptoms appeared, quarantine is lifted
2. If the person has Covid-19 symptoms, self-quarantine is required until a defined period after symptoms have disappeared

Event Task Force action

The FIS Event Task Force will be notified of a positive case which consists of one senior management representative from FIS, LOC, NSA and the LOC Health Coordinator to instruct the designated responsible person of the positive test carrier, e.g. team head coach.

1. Procedures: In accordance with the national authorities procedures, this will require immediate isolation and self-quarantine and declaration of contact persons during the past 72 hours. All persons in current contact with the positive test carrier must undertake a PCR test and isolate/self-quarantine until the result is received.
2. Communication of the positive test and consequences notably in the case of an athlete, e.g. non-eligibility to compete for a defined number of day/s will be communicated in accordance with the FIS Covid-19 Communications Policy (appendix 2).

Support of FIS

FIS expertise is permanently available to the Local Organising Committee, as well as all other groups and persons in regard specifically to the FIS World Cup Risk Management Covid-19 Testing Protocol through the FIS Covid-19 Expert, Rasmus Damsgaard. For other Covid-19 medical and health-related matters the members of the FIS Medical Committee Covid-19 Project Group are at disposal. For non-specific specific matters other persons will manage the question including the FIS Competition Management, Secretary General and a network of expertise in a wide range of areas.

Appendix 1 - Health Questionnaire

	NO	YES
Have you had any cold symptoms (cough, runny nose, sore throat, difficult breathing, loss of taste or smell) during the last 14 days?		
Have you had any of the following symptoms during the last 14 days: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fever - Chest pain - Headache - Nausea/vomiting - diarrhea 		
Have you been in contact with someone with a proven infection with Covid-19?		
Have you been in quarantine during the last 14 days?		
Have you tested positive to the PCR (Polymerase chain reaction) test during the last 14 days?		

Appendix 2 - FIS Covid-19 Communications Policy

FIS World Cup Communications flow for a Covid-19 positive test

Should an individual directly involved with any FIS World Cup competition test positive for Covid-19, the following procedures will be implemented to assure the communication flow.

This applies to all stakeholders: team support personnel, equipment technicians, broadcasters and rights holders, event service support, etc.

Upon receipt of a positive test, the team/individual shall immediately inform the FIS contact person on site (Race/Contest Director). The Race Director will inform the FIS Event Task Force (one representative: FIS, LOC, NSA and the LOC Health Coordinator, FIS C-19 Expert) of the situation, who will assess the next steps necessary.

No external communication may be made by the team/individual until the FIS Event Task Force has assessed the circumstances.

Once the assessment is made, official information firstly to the designated contact for the positive case to inform about the communication flow. The first external information will be made through the FIS Official Communication system. It will not contain names of individuals involved, or details. It is meant strictly to inform that a person has tested positive and any necessary next steps involved.

Should timing be appropriate and all parties agree, the information can also be communicated by the FIS Race Director at the Team Captains Meeting to facilitate additional communication to the key stakeholder group, namely the athletes. Following any announcement at a TCM, the FIS Official Communication will still be sent and if cleared information about the person involved if this is cleared.

At this time, the teams/individuals may also put out information to the media with more detail about the positive case, if desired.

Following the Official Communication, FIS will only answer media inquiries that pertain directly the competition and any impact on the calendar. All health and team-related questions will be referred to the team/individual/group involved.

Please note these guidelines refer only to the external communication of a positive test. Informing the local authorities should follow the government guidelines in place at the time and in the region.

Communication flow due of change to the calendar due to Covid-19

Should there be a change to the calendar due to Covid-19 (cancellation, change of date, change of venue, etc.) this will be communicated via the FIS Official Communication system for the given discipline once the change has been confirmed by the FIS Race Director.

Local Organising Committees, National Ski Associations and any other involved stakeholders should not make any public statements about any calendar changes until the FIS Official Communication has been sent.