



## COVID Manager Position Description

Recognized by the American Medical Association (AMA), Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), athletic trainers (ATs) are *highly qualified, multi-skilled health care professionals* who render service or treatment, under the direction of or in collaboration with a physician, in accordance with their education, training and the state's statutes, rules and regulations. As a part of a healthcare team, services provided by athletic trainers include primary care, injury and illness prevention, wellness promotion and education, emergent care, examination and clinical diagnosis, therapeutic intervention and rehabilitation of injuries and medical conditions to all types of patients, not just athletes participating in sports throughout a variety of job settings. Athletic trainers relieve widespread and future workforce shortages in primary care support and outpatient rehab professions and provide an *unparalleled continuum of care* for the patients. Preventative care provided by an athletic trainer has a positive return on investment for employers especially during this time where institutions and organizations look to reintegrate their workforce into a normal setting.

The challenges created during the COVID-19 crisis find organizations and schools in positions of uncertainty. Traditionally, ATs have cared for the active population and athletics. With the reduction of athletics around the country and state, some ATs have found themselves without work or have been reassigned. According to the NFHS, it is important to remember that athletic training services should no longer be viewed as a luxury, but as a necessity while institutions navigate a new standard of care for both the active and general population. Multiple guidelines, suggestions, standards and requirements are being released daily which can cause confusion and misinterpretation for those who find themselves trying to plan for a safe return to work, school and/or sport. Given that ATs are qualified health care providers, MATS has created this position description to show the value of retaining or hiring an AT as your organizations COVID Manager.

The role of the AT as a COVID Manager is to mitigate both risk and liability for their respective institution through an eight prong approach. In order to ensure that all guidelines are followed and adhered to, the COVID Manager will act as a 1. Educational resource 2. Health care referral source 3. Liaison between your institution and community health departments 4. Screening and records management 5. Liaison with custodial staff for hygiene planning 6. Events planning and roadmapping 7. PPE Purchaser 8. Expert in Emergency Action Planning. An explanation of duties is as follows:

## 1. Educational Resource

Athletic trainers are educated and trained in injury and illness prevention strategies that focus on optimizing health to improve an individual's quality of life. Athletic trainers are the only health care professionals whose expertise in prevention ranges from minor sprains to catastrophic head and neck injuries, and from minor illnesses to exertional heat syndrome. Nutrition and wellness also play an integral role in the athletic trainers' work in preventing injury and illness.

According to multiple resources and guidelines, education is a key component to the reduction of risk associated with COVID-19. Proper education on hygiene, virology and mitigation of risk will be key to ensuring that your institution's rate of infection is kept to a minimum.

Lastly, due to the multiple guidelines, your institution will need a point person to analyze and interpret those guidelines to enact best practices to ensure a safe return.

## 2. Health Care Referral Source

Athletic trainers recognize when consultation with other health care providers is necessary and refer accordingly. This crisis is no different as ATs generally work as the hub for the medical team referring to appropriate health care providers for specific conditions. Under the direction of your institution's medical director, the AT will act as the referral source for those experiencing COVID related symptoms.

Along with physical medical referrals, the AT can also act as the referral source for Mental Health services.

## 3. Community Health Department Liaison

As changes to guidelines and regulations are made, and new information comes forth, the need for a central source of analysis is necessary to ensure that all departments are working harmoniously. Given that ATs are generally the hub of the sports medicine team, the AT has ideal training in working with multiple resources and groups, to make certain all parties have the best resources and education necessary to operate efficiently.

## 4. Screening and Records Management

Due to our educational background and training, ATs can assist in monitoring symptoms and temperature checks for their institution. ATs are well versed in both HIPAA and FERPA compliance measures as well as record keeping.

Since information gathered during screening is considered private and protected, an AT is well suited to manage screening and record keeping.

## 5. Liaison with custodial staff for hygiene planning

ATs are well versed in facility and policy and procedure planning. Having a well written and organized policy best ensures that risk of infection is mitigated. Having the AT in place to act as a liaison between custodial services and administration will allow for ideal communication to occur to guarantee that facilities are both safe and clean. Having access to the Program Assessment for Safety in Sport will outline the framework for institutions and organizations to follow in order to prioritize health and safety.

## 6. Roadmapping

Dynamic planning of staff requirements will be necessary as we reintegrate back to a normal working environment. ATs can assist with event planning, zoning, field time management and cleaning. Event planning must now consider health and safety standards and all that is required. ATs can assist in identifying staff needs as well as group size to provide a safe and healthy environment.

## 7. PPE Purchaser

Purchasing of personal protective equipment is a regular administrative duty that ATs engage in. ATs have an understanding in the bid process as well as the ability to connect and contact companies who supply those needs.

## 8. Emergency Action Planning

Emergency Action Planning is key to the regular duties of an AT. In order to reduce risks of injury and illness, the AT is well educated in emergency planning. Institutions will most likely require planning for post event infection control as well as the need to identify and quarantine individuals through screening. Procedures like these can easily be managed by an AT.