



Ohio High School Athletic Association

Tuesday, July 27, 2021

Administrator Update

TO: Member Schools' Superintendents, Principals and Athletic Administrators

FR: OHSAA Executive Director's Office

The following updates and reminders are being sent electronically to member school superintendents, principals and athletic administrators. Please share this update with other interested administrators and coaches on your staff.

Ohio Department of Health Releases New Guidance for K-12 Schools

The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) today released newly revised guidance for K-12 schools, and some items in the information pertains to interscholastic and extracurricular activities. Although Ohio lifted most statewide pandemic-related health orders on June 2, 2021, the risk is still there for illness from COVID-19. The OHSAA and ODH urge the membership to continue to follow safe protocols to protect everyone, especially those individuals who are not fully vaccinated. Here is a link to the ODH's current K-12 guidance:

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/schools/K-12-Schools-Guidance.pdf>

Key takeaways from the new guidance:

- **There currently are NO mandates regarding vaccinations and social distancing.**
- **The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) mandate that masks shall be worn while using public transportation (e.g. school busses) remains in place. There are NO other mandates regarding masks.**
- **It is highly recommended that coaches and student-athletes who are eligible for vaccinations to be vaccinated.**
- **It is highly recommended that those who are unvaccinated wear masks in indoor facilities and in outdoor facilities where there are crowded situations.**
- **It is highly recommended that those who are unvaccinated maintain three-to-six feet of social distancing indoors and at outdoor facilities where there are crowded situations.**

Guidance/Resources for COVID-19

In addition to the guidance provided above, other specific ODH guidance pieces and resources have been available as follows:

- **Social Distancing, Masking and Congregating:**

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/main-guidance-21.pdf>

- **Youth, Collegiate, Amateur, Club and Professional Sports:**

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/Youth-Collegiate-Amateur-Club-Pro-Sports.pdf>

- **Sports Venues:**

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/Sports-Venues.pdf>

- **Posters and Signs:**

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/responsible-restart-ohio/Posters-and-Signs>

Here are additional recommendations the OHSAA is asking our member schools to please consider:

- **Have school administrators and coaches read and familiarize themselves with the documents in the links above.**
- **Continue to work with your local health department when a positive test is confirmed to ensure the proper individuals are notified and to facilitate appropriate contact tracing.**
- **Continue to encourage student-athletes who test positive for COVID-19 to gain medical clearance before they are permitted to return to practices or contests, with an approval form to be kept on file at the school.**
- **Continue to practice proper sanitation of student-athlete equipment and personal belongings and of all facilities and venues.**
- **Continue to utilize signage and public address announcements at your facilities that encourage spectators to practice good hygiene and know the symptoms and that encourage spectators not fully vaccinated to wear masks and stay socially distanced.**

Member Schools Encouraged to Set Up Vaccination Partnerships

The OHSAA, in partnership with the Governor's Office and the ODH, is encouraging its member schools to partner with COVID-19 vaccine providers in their communities to set up vaccination clinics for eligible students. School administrators can go to this link, which lists providers who are interested in creating partnerships for vaccination clinics in their communities: <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/vaccine/business-provider-partners.pdf>.

Thank you for your attention to this information. Best wishes for a successful start to the 2021-22 school year!