

## Guidelines for the Return to 2021 Fall Sport Seasons (10/8/21)

With the return to fall sports, normalization is being recommended with the following caveats:

- Full vaccination is strongly encouraged
- Masks are strongly encouraged for individuals not fully vaccinated.
- Schools follow local health department guidelines.
- WIAA Covid Symptom Checklist is required.

The comprehensive prevention measures remain critical to reducing the risk and burden of COVID. These measures should be continued:

- Continue with appropriate hygiene –do not share water or food with others, avoid spitting, and use hand sanitizer before, after, and potentially during participation.
  - Continue with established, regular cleaning and disinfecting of equipment, especially things that athletes will touch with their hands.
- Encourage social distancing.
- Minimize crowds & follow local health authority guidelines for spectator limits.

Based on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines, fully vaccinated individuals may resume activities that they did prior to the pandemic. Fully vaccinated individuals should consider wearing a mask in areas of high likelihood of transmission. Persons are considered full vaccinated when:

- It is at least 2 weeks after the second dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines.
- It is at least 2 weeks after receiving the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

Exposure, quarantine and isolation guidelines for fully vaccinated individuals:

- Fully vaccinated people that develop COVID symptoms should isolate themselves from others and contact their primary care provider to discuss evaluation and testing.
  - These individuals will need medical clearance with negative testing in order to return to activity, or they will need to follow established CDC quarantine protocol.
    - At least 10 days since symptoms first appeared, AND
    - At least 24 hours with no fever without fever reducing medication, AND
    - Other COVID-19 symptoms are improving (loss of taste and smell may persist for weeks or months and should not delay end of quarantine).
- Fully vaccinated people with no COVID-like symptoms following an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID do not need to quarantine or test.
- They should monitor themselves for symptoms for 14 days after exposure, and if symptoms begin, they should isolate and contact their primary care provider.

Exposure, quarantine and isolation guidelines for individuals that are not fully vaccinated:

- Persons with close contact to an individual with COVID should immediately being quarantine at home for 14 days from last contact with the infected individual.
  - Local health authorities will make final decision on length of quarantine.
  - Potential options to reduce quarantine include:
    - After day 7, if asymptomatic and a negative test result (test must occur on day 5 or later).
    - After day 10, if asymptomatic.
  - Over the entire 14 day period, everyone should monitor for symptoms, wear a mask, and maintain social distancing/avoid crowds.

- Persons with symptoms of COVID or a positive COVID test without symptoms should isolate themselves from others and contact their primary care provider to discuss evaluation and testing.
  - These individuals will need medical clearance with negative testing in order to return to activity, or they will need to follow the previously established 14 day quarantine protocol.

**During WIAA tournaments,** schools shall continue to follow CDC and local health department quarantine guidelines. WIAA staff in consultation with its Sports Medical Advisory Committee will continue to follow emerging research and will make changes if needed. When diagnostic testing resources are sufficient and available, then quarantine can end after Day 7 if a diagnostic specimen tests negative and if no symptoms were reported during daily monitoring. The specimen may be collected and tested within 48 hours before the time of planned quarantine discontinuation (after day 5 of quarantine), but quarantine cannot be discontinued earlier than after Day 7.

The CDC has provided guidelines for returning to school:

- Vaccination is currently the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. Promoting vaccination can help schools safely return to in-person learning as well as extracurricular activities and sports.
- Masks should be worn indoors by all individuals (age 2 and older) who are not fully vaccinated. Consistent and correct mask use by people who are not fully vaccinated is especially important indoors and in crowded settings, when physical distancing cannot be maintained.
- COVID-19 prevention strategies remain critical to protect people, including students, teachers, and staff, who are not fully vaccinated, especially in areas of moderate-to-high community transmission levels.

**Transportation Note:** The CDC's Order requiring masks for everyone on all public transportation does extend to school buses (public and private), so while masks may not be required at school or during competition, everyone (staff, coaches, athletes) should wear them on buses/vans used to transport team members, coaches, and staff. The information below is from CDC's updated [Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools](#):

- ***During school transportation:*** *CDC's Order applies to all public transportation conveyances including school buses. Regardless of the mask policy at school, passengers and drivers must wear a mask on school buses, including on buses operated by public and private school systems, subject to the exclusions and exemptions in CDC's Order. Learn more [here](#). For example, if a student attends a school where mask use is not required due to vaccination status (e.g., a high school with a high rate of vaccination), the student is still required to wear a mask on the school bus.*
- *Schools should provide masks to those students who need them (including on buses), such as students who forgot to bring their mask or whose families are unable to afford them. No disciplinary action should be taken against a student who does not have a mask as described in the U.S. Department of Education [COVID-19 Handbook, Volume 1](#).*

**School Testing:** The Department of Health Services (DHS) is offering [convenient school-based testing for teachers, staff, students, and their families for the 2021-2022 school year](#). This testing program is intended to help K-12 public, private, and independent charter schools provide safe and healthy learning environments by connecting them with appropriate program vendors to meet their testing needs.

Regular COVID-19 testing can help support schools in making decisions about their efforts to protect the health and well-being of those in their buildings, such as universal and correct use of masks, maintaining adequate physical distance, isolation and quarantine, ventilation improvements, and thorough handwashing.

Further reading (accessed July 16, 2021):

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/isolation.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/science-briefs/fully-vaccinated-people.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7021e2.htm>

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/index.htm>

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/schools.htm>

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/testing-schools.htm>