



**Wissahickon School District
WHS Athletic Department
WSD Athletic Health and Safety Plan
Phase I – July 1, 2020 through August 9, 2020
(Outdoor Activities Only)**

INTENT

The virus that causes the Coronavirus 2019 Disease (“COVID-19”) is easily transmitted, especially in group settings, and it is essential that the spread of the virus be slowed to safeguard public health and safety.

COVID-19 can be transmitted from infected individuals even if they are asymptomatic or their symptoms are mild, such as a cough. It can also be spread by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching your mouth, nose or eyes. This guidance document addresses the procedures sports organizations and teams must follow to limit the spread of COVID-19 to the extent they are permitted to conduct in-person operations.

This guidance is preliminary and will be updated as more public health data and other information is available. (<https://www.governor.pa.gov/covid-19/sports-guidance/>)

The Wissahickon SD will implement the necessary precautions and recommendations from the federal, state, and local governments, CDC, PDE, PA DOH, as well as the NFHS and PIAA to ensure student and employee safety. The Wissahickon SD realizes the knowledge regarding COVID-19 is constantly changing as new information and treatments become available. These recommendations will be adjusted as needed as new information becomes available in order to decrease the risk of exposure for our staff, students, and eventually spectators.

SIGNIFICANCE OF RED-YELLOW-GREEN PHASES FOR SPORTS IN PA

No sports (professional, collegiate, Pre-K to 12, recreational or amateur) are allowed in counties designated as being in the Red phase.

Pre-K to 12 SCHOOL SPORTS

Pre-K to 12 (PK-12) school sports under the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) and the Pennsylvania Independent Schools Athletic Association (PISAA) are permitted to resume in counties designated in the Yellow and Green phases, in alignment with the [PDE](#)

[Preliminary Guidance for Phased Reopening of Pre-K to 12 Schools](#) and the [CDC Considerations for Youth Sports](#).

The decision to resume sports-related activities, including conditioning, practices and games, is the discretion of a school entity's governing body. Each school entity must develop and adopt an Athletics Health and Safety Plan aligning to the [PDE Preliminary Guidance for Phased Reopening of Pre-K to 12 Schools](#) prior to conducting sports-related activities with students. The plan must include the provisions of this guidance, be approved by the local governing body of the school entity, and be posted on the school entity's publicly available website. The plan does not need to be submitted to DOH or PDE for approval.

Any sports-related activities in Yellow or Green phased counties must adhere to the gathering limitations set forth by the Governor's Plan for Phased Reopening (25 in yellow, 250 in green) and the facility as a whole may not exceed 50% of total occupancy otherwise permitted by law. During the Yellow and Green phases of reopening, sports-related activities at the PK-12 level are limited to student athletes, coaches, officials, and staff only. The addition of visitors and spectators will be contingent upon future health conditions within the state and local communities.

This guidance is preliminary; as more public health information is available, the administration may work with impacted entities to release further guidance, which could impact fall, winter, or spring seasons.

GUIDANCE APPLICABLE TO ALL SPORTING EVENTS

To conduct games and practices, organizations and teams authorized to conduct in-person activities pursuant to this guidance **must adhere to the following**:

- Coaches and league officials must review and consider the CDC guidance on consideration for youth sports to modify practices and games to mitigate the risk of spreading the virus. This includes focusing on individual skill building versus competition and limiting contact in close contact sports.
- The community, league, or team must designate a primary point of contact for all questions related to COVID-19, and all parents, athletes, officials, and coaches must be provided the person's contact information.
- The community, league, or team must develop a plan of action in the event an athlete, coach, or official falls ill, make the plan publicly available, and explain it to the entire sport community.
- The community, league, or team must educate all athletes, staff and families about the symptoms of COVID-19 and when to stay home. Athletes also should be educated on proper hand washing and sanitizing.
- Coaching staff and other adult personnel should wear face coverings (masks or face shields) at all times, unless doing so jeopardizes their health.
- Coaches and athletes must maintain appropriate social distancing at all times possible, including in the field of play, sidelines, dugouts, benches, and workout areas. During down time, athletes and coaches should not congregate.
- Coaches and athletic staff must screen and monitor athletes for symptoms prior to and during games and practices (See Appendix for COVID-19 Screening Form). If individuals participating

in sporting activities show symptoms, have a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher, or are sick, they must be sent home.

- All athletes, coaches, and officials must bring their own water and drinks to team activities. Team water coolers for sharing through disposable cups are not allowed. Fixed water fountains should not be used.
- Activities that increase the risk of exposure to saliva must not be allowed including chewing gum, spitting, licking fingers, and eating sunflower seeds.
- Avoid shaking hands, fist bumps, or high fives before, during or after games and practices. Limit unnecessary physical contact with teammates, other athletes, coaches, officials, and spectators.
- Whenever possible, equipment and other personal items should be separated and not shared. If equipment must be shared, all equipment should be properly disinfected between users.
- If multiple games are to be held at the same facility, adequate time shall be scheduled between contests to allow for facilities to be cleaned and disinfected, and to minimize interaction between athletes. Sports complexes with multiple fields may operate simultaneous games or practices on fields within a complex only if social distancing can be maintained. Each individual game or practice at a complex must adhere to the gathering occupancy limits (25 in yellow, 250 in green), and the facility as a whole may not exceed 50% of total occupancy otherwise permitted by law.

To operate games or practice, organizations and teams that are otherwise permitted to conduct in-person activities pursuant to this guidance **are encouraged to do the following:**

- In counties in the Yellow Phase of Reopening, indoor training or sports may only be conducted by organizations subject to supervision or regulation of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association or National Collegiate Athletic Associations, and only in accordance with guidance provided by those governing bodies. Start by limiting games, scrimmages, and matches to teams in your region first. Expand beyond regional play if cases continue to stay low.
- Adult athletes are encouraged to wear face coverings when they are not engaged in a sporting activity, unless doing so jeopardizes their health.
- Coaches should create a back-up staffing plan, which should include cross-training staff and coaches and training all coaches and officials on safety protocols.
- Create protocols to limit entrance and exit traffic, designating specific entry to and exits from facilities. Establish protocols to ensure staggered pick up and drop off for practice and events and ensure that athletes are not congregating while awaiting pick up and to ensure congregation or crowding does not occur on drop off. Pickups and drop offs should remain outside. Parents should not enter the facility.

GUIDANCE FOR CAREGIVERS AND SPECTATORS

- Caregivers or spectators should not enter the field of play or bench areas.
- Nonessential visitors, spectators, and volunteers should be limited when possible, including activities with external groups or organizations. Parents should refrain from attending practices, or volunteering to assist with coaching.
- Caregivers and coaches should assess levels of risk based on individual athletes on the team who may be at a higher risk for severe illness.
- Caregivers should monitor their children for symptoms prior to any sporting event. Children and athletes who are sick or showing symptoms must stay home.

(<https://www.governor.pa.gov/covid-19/sports-guidance/>)

ADDITIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

Parent/Guardian & Student Return to Activities Agreement:

- All student-athletes must submit a signed Parent/Guardian and Student Return to Activities Agreement prior to participating in any workout. (found in Appendix)

Facilities Cleaning:

- Adequate cleaning schedules should be created and implemented for all athletic facilities to mitigate any communicable disease
- Athletic Facilities should be cleaned prior to arrival and post workouts and team gatherings, high touch areas should be cleaned more often

Physical Activity:

- Students should refrain from sharing clothing/towels and should be washed after each practice, including pinnies
- Athletic equipment that may be used by multiple individuals (balls, shields, tackling dummies, shotput, discus, pole vault, etc.) should be cleaned intermittently during practice and events as deemed necessary
- Hand Sanitizer should be used periodically as resources allow
- Outdoors only - Spotters for maximum weight lifts should be stationed at each end of the bar

Hydration:

- Students **MUST** bring their own water bottle. Water bottles must not be shared.

CLASSIFICATION OF SPORT

High Risk: Sports that involve close, sustained contact between participants, lack of significant protective barriers, and high probability that respiratory particles will be transmitted between participants.

Examples: Wrestling, football, boys' lacrosse, competitive cheer, dance

Moderate Risk: Sports that involve close, sustained contact, but with protective equipment in place that may reduce the likelihood of respiratory particle transmission between participants OR intermittent close contact OR group sports that use equipment that can't be cleaned between participants.

Examples: Basketball, volleyball*, baseball*, softball*, soccer, water polo, ice hockey, field hockey, tennis*, swimming relays, pole vault*, high jump*, long jump*, girls' lacrosse, 7 on 7 football

**Could potentially be considered "Lower Risk" with appropriate cleaning of equipment and use of masks by participants*

Low Risk: Sports that can be done with social distancing or individually with no sharing of equipment or the ability to clean the equipment between uses by competitors.

Examples: individual running events, throwing events (javelin, shot put, discus), individual swimming, golf, weightlifting, sideline cheer, cross country running (with staggered starts).

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

Transportation:

All coaches and student-athletes must provide their own transportation during the Phase I period (7/1/2020 – 8/9/2020).

Social Distancing during Contests/Events/Activities

- Sidelines/Bench – appropriate social distancing will need to be maintained on sidelines/bench during contests and events, as deemed necessary by the school, PIAA, state and local governments. Consider using tape or paint as a guide for students and coaches.

Who should be allowed at events?

Group people into tiers from essential to non-essential and decide which will be allowed at an event:

1. Tier 1 (Essential) – Athletes, coaches, officials, event staff, medical staff, security
 2. Tier 2 (Preferred) – Media
 3. Tier 3 (Non-essential) – Spectators, vendors
- Only Tier 1 will be allowed to attend events during Phase I period (7/1/2020-8/9/2020).
 - Changes to seating capacity and social distancing may be necessary for each venue facility and will be determined as more recommendations are released by the local/state governments.

Overnight/Out of State Events/ Events in COVID-19 Hot Spots

No overnight or out of state events will take place during Phase I period (7/1/2020-8/9/2020).

Positive Cases and Coaches, Staff, or Athletes Showing COVID-19 Symptoms

What are the signs and symptoms of COVID-19?

Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. The symptoms may range from mild to severe. (See CDC Fact Sheet in Appendix)

Symptoms may include:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue

- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore Throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

What to do if you are sick?

- If you are sick with COVID-19 or think you are infected with the virus, **STAY AT HOME**. It is essential that you take steps to help prevent the disease from spreading to people in your home or community. If you think you have been exposed to COVID-19 and develop a fever and symptoms, call your healthcare provider for medical advice.
- Notify the school immediately (principal, athletic director, athletic trainer, coach)
- It will be determined if others who may have been exposed (students, coaches, staff) need to be notified, isolated, and /or monitored for symptoms
- If a Positive case of COVID-19 is Diagnosed Contact Tracing will be implemented with the assistance of local health professionals and the CDC/PA DOH. See Information in Appendix

What to do if a student or staff become ill with COVID-19 symptoms during practice, event, or during transportation to or from an event?

- Every effort will be made to isolate the ill individual from others, until the student or staff member can leave the school or event
- If student, parent/guardian will be contacted immediately, and arrangements will be made for the student to be picked up
- Ill individual will be required to provide medical clearance from their physician or appropriate healthcare professional and be fever free (without fever-reducing medicine) for a minimum of three (3) days prior to returning to sports-related activities.

Return of student or staff to athletics following a COVID-19 diagnosis?

- Student or staff should have medical clearance from their physician or appropriate healthcare professional, determined to be non-contagious, Fever free (without fever-reducing medicine), improvement in respiratory symptoms (cough, shortness of breath), no vomiting or diarrhea.

Procedure for returning from an area where there are high amounts of COVID-19 cases:

- Any coach and or student-athlete who has traveled to the below list of states/locations (as it may be modified from time to time by the Pennsylvania Department of Health) will be prohibited from participating in any WSD sports-related activity for a period of 14 days to allow for a recommended self-quarantine.

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Travelers.aspx>

EDUCATION:

- Staff, Coaches, Parents and Athletes will be educated on the following (through posters, flyers, meetings, emails, phone calls):
- COVID-19 signs and symptoms
- Proper ways to limit exposure to COVID-19 (hand washing, cough in your elbow, disinfecting touched surfaces, social distancing, etc.)
- The content of this WSD Athletic Health and Safety Plan
- Any pertinent COVID-19 information released by state/local governments, NFHS, and PIAA.

APPENDIX



PARENT/GUARDIAN & STUDENT RETURN TO ACTIVITIES AGREEMENT

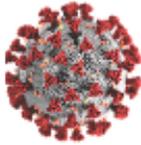
1. I am familiar with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) guidelines regarding the Novel Coronavirus Disease (“COVID-19”). I acknowledge and understand that the circumstances and symptoms regarding COVID-19 are changing from day to day and that, accordingly, the CDC guidelines are regularly modified and updated, and I agree to accept full responsibility for familiarizing myself with the most recent CDC modifications and updates.
2. I affirm that neither I, nor any person residing in my household, have been diagnosed with, demonstrated any symptoms of, or have in any way knowingly been exposed to COVID-19, within the past fourteen (14) calendar days. I further affirm that I have not been notified within the past fourteen (14) calendar days that I, nor any person residing in my household, has been exposed to COVID-19.
3. I agree that if I, or any person residing in my household, begin to experience symptoms similar to COVID-19, or if I, or any person residing in my household, are notified that I/they have been exposed to or infected with COVID-19 that I will immediately cease participating in the Activity. Furthermore, if I, or any person residing in my household, are notified that I/they have been diagnosed with COVID-19 and I have participated in the Activity within the last fourteen (14) calendar days from the date of diagnosis, that I will immediately notify WSD of the diagnosis.
4. I acknowledge that I am aware that by participating in the Activity that there is a risk of being exposed to COVID-19, and/or any mutation or variation thereof. I am also aware that such an exposure can occur either directly or indirectly whether or not a mask and/or gloves are worn and that WSD cannot guarantee that by participating in the Activity that there will be no exposure to COVID-19. I further acknowledge that while certain individuals are more susceptible to becoming seriously ill if they contract COVID-19 (such as people over 65, people with serious underlying health conditions, and those with compromised immune systems), anyone, including a healthy person, is susceptible to contracting COVID-19. I have independently evaluated and reviewed the risks of being exposed to or infected by COVID-19 and have determined to participate in the Activity with full knowledge and acceptance of the risks.

Printed Name of Student-Athlete _____ **Sport** _____

Signature of Student-Athlete _____ **Date** _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____ **Date** _____

What you should know about COVID-19 to protect yourself and others



Know about COVID-19

- Coronavirus (COVID-19) is an illness caused by a virus that can spread from person to person.
- The virus that causes COVID-19 is a new coronavirus that has spread throughout the world.
- COVID-19 symptoms can range from mild (or no symptoms) to severe illness.



Know how COVID-19 is spread

- You can become infected by coming into close contact (about 6 feet or two arm lengths) with a person who has COVID-19. COVID-19 is primarily spread from person to person.
- You can become infected from respiratory droplets when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks.
- You may also be able to get it by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it, and then by touching your mouth, nose, or eyes.



Protect yourself and others from COVID-19

- There is currently no vaccine to protect against COVID-19. The best way to protect yourself is to avoid being exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19.
- Stay home as much as possible and avoid close contact with others.
- Wear a cloth face covering that covers your nose and mouth in public settings.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.



Practice social distancing

- Buy groceries and medicine, go to the doctor, and complete banking activities online when possible.
- If you must go in person, stay at least 6 feet away from others and disinfect items you must touch.
- Get deliveries and takeout, and limit in-person contact as much as possible.



Prevent the spread of COVID-19 if you are sick

- Stay home if you are sick, except to get medical care.
- Avoid public transportation, ride-sharing, or taxis.
- Separate yourself from other people and pets in your home.
- There is no specific treatment for COVID-19, but you can seek medical care to help relieve your symptoms.
- If you need medical attention, call ahead.



Know your risk for severe illness

- Everyone is at risk of getting COVID-19.
- Older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions may be at higher risk for more severe illness.



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[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

BACKGROUND

Contact tracing is the process of reaching out to anyone who came into close contact with an individual who is positive for COVID-19. Contact tracing helps monitor close contacts for symptoms and to determine if they need to be tested. Contact tracing is a key strategy for preventing the further spread of infectious diseases such as COVID-19.

WHAT DOES THIS PROCESS LOOK LIKE?

- In contact tracing, public health staff work with a case to help them recall everyone they have had close contact with during the time they were infectious.
- Public health staff then inform individuals who have had close contact (e.g. “close contacts”) that they have potentially been exposed to COVID-19. Close contacts are only told that they may have been exposed to someone who has COVID-19; they are not told who may have exposed them.
- Close contacts are given education, information and support so they understand their risk. They receive information on what they should do to separate themselves from others who have not been exposed, how to monitor themselves for illness, and are made aware that they could possibly spread the infection to others, even if they do not feel sick.
- Close contacts will be asked to quarantine themselves and are encouraged to stay home and maintain social distancing through the end of their infectious period, which is about 14 days, in case they become sick. They should monitor themselves by checking their temperature twice a day and watch for any other symptoms of COVID-19. Public health staff will check in with these contacts to make sure they are self-monitoring and have not developed symptoms.
- If a close contact develops symptoms, they should isolate themselves and let public health staff know. The close contact will be evaluated to see if they need medical care. A test may be necessary unless the individual is already in a household or long-term care facility with a confirmed case, then the close contact would be considered a probable case without a test.

WHAT TERMS SHOULD I KNOW WHEN IT COMES TO CONTACT TRACING?

- A **case** is a patient who has been diagnosed with COVID-19. A case should isolate themselves, meaning they should stay away from other people who are not sick to avoid spreading the illness.
- A **close contact** is an individual who had close contact with a case while the case was infectious. A close contact should quarantine themselves, meaning they should stay at home to limit community exposure and self-monitor for symptoms.
- A **contact of a close contact** is an individual who had or continues to have contact with a close contact. A contact of a close contact should take all regular preventative actions, like washing hands, covering coughs and sneezes, and cleaning surfaces frequently. A contact of a close contact should be alert for symptoms.

RESOURCES FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information on wearing or making a mask,

visit: <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Stop-the-Spread.aspx>

For more information on COVID-19, visit the Department of Health's website, www.health.pa.gov, or the

Help is available, contact the Crisis Text Line by
texting **PA to 741-741**

Date Created 4/30/2020

RESOURCES:

NFHS: Guidance for Opening Up High School Athletics and Activities (per update on May 2020)

Centers for Disease Control – “What You Should Know About COVID-19 to Protect Yourself and Others”

Centers for Disease Control – “Schools Decision Tree”

Centers for Disease Control – “Considerations for Youth Sports”

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/youth-sports.html>

PA Department of Education – “Preliminary Guidance for Phased Reopening of Pre-K to 12 Schools”
[PDE Preliminary Guidance for Phased Reopening of Pre-K to 12 Schools](#)

PA Department of Health – “Coronavirus Symptoms”

PA Department of Health – “What is Contact Tracing?”

PA Department of Health – “Phased Re-opening Plan by Governor Wolf”

A Guide to Re-Entry to Athletics in Texas Secondary Schools

By Jamie Woodall, MPH, LAT, ATC, CPH and Josh Woodall Med, LAT, ATC

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania – “Guidance for All Sports Permitted to Operate During the COVID-19 Disaster Emergency to Ensure the Safety and Health of Employees, Athletes and the Public” *Issued June 10, 2020* <https://www.governor.pa.gov/covid-19/sports-guidance/>