

8-3-2021

WHSAA 2021-22 RECOMMENDED GUIDELINES

The Wyoming High School Activities Association (WHSAA) continues to promote the benefits of students participating in activities and believe it is essential to the physical and mental well-being of those students.

In working with the State Department of Health (WDH) and the State Department of Education (WDE), it is the WHSAA's goal to safely continue the activities we were fortunate enough to complete last year. Schools need to continue to be diligent, in supporting these activities, to facilitate safe participation and reduce the risk of transmission. **We do not want to take any steps backward and have activities jeopardize in-person education due to outbreaks.**

Schools should continue to work with their local health officials in determining if further restrictions need to be addressed in their districts. We also understand the ever-changing conditions that exist during the COVID-19 pandemic and recognize that modifications to these guidelines may be required in the future.

The challenge of determining who is and who is not vaccinated is real. The WHSAA believes it is best for each district to determine how they will handle their individual situations. The following are guidelines to consider as you plan your prevention strategies for activities.

PREVENTION STRATEGIES

- **Social Distancing**-Each school district should operate student activities in a way that encourages social distancing.
- **Social Gatherings**-We believe it is important to remember that some of our larger outbreaks last year came from social gatherings outside of practice and events, i.e., team dinners, BBQs, etc. Please stay diligent and use good judgement with our students outside of school. A constant reminder to our students about their responsibility in reducing the risk of transmission is encouraged.
- **Sanitizing**-Continue to employ enhanced sanitation and cleaning measures by district personnel for buildings and practice equipment. All students and coaches should bring their own water bottle, **no sharing**; water filling stations may be utilized but should be cleaned after every practice/contest.
- **Hygiene**-Appropriate hygiene measures are essential. It is recommended students shower after each practice and contest. Practice gear should be washed daily.
- **Screening**-Screening testing is an option for school districts to evaluate and consider. Testing may be most valuable in areas with moderate or high community transmission levels, in areas with low vaccination coverage, and in schools where other prevention

strategies are not implemented. There are several financial resources available to assist in your testing. This link will take you to the WDH Testing Resources and Guidance document. [WDH Testing Resources and Guidance for K-12 Schools \(wyo.gov\)](#).

- **Physical exam**-Students must have passed a physical on or after May 1, 2021.
- **Transportation**-Social distancing in transportation vehicles is encouraged and should be maximized when possible. Districts will need to evaluate current CDC guidelines and requirements for transportation. Link below:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/face-masks-public-transportation.html>
- **Health Officer Collaboration**-Each school should continue to collaborate with their county health department regarding any event in which the school learns of suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19 at an event. Contact tracing should also continue to be a collaborative effort with the school and county health department/public health nursing offices.
- **Spectators**- Schools should consider the event and number of spectators to provide social distancing and space as much as possible. Plans for indoor events should attempt to keep each community separated as much as possible.
- **Staying Home When Sick**-It is imperative that we continue to educate our students and adults with the importance of staying home when sick. Testing is recommended when signs and symptoms of COVID-19 are present. A student should be sent home from practice any time they demonstrate signs or symptoms of any illness.
- **Return to Play**-Any WHSAA activity participant who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 should not return to play until he/she is evaluated by an appropriate health care professional, and has written clearance, by the appropriate health care professional to return to play.

The following link will provide guidance from both the Wyoming Department of Health and the CDC as a resource for you to the most up-to-date information available.
[COVID-19 Information and Guidance - Wyoming Department of Health](#).

We encourage everyone to keep our student's safety at the forefront of all decisions.

TOGETHER WE CAN BENEFIT OUR STUDENTS!!!