

Montgomery County Office of Public Health

Guidance for Sports

Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association, Inc. (PIAA) voted to permit fall sports to begin on Monday, August 24, 2020 for those schools choosing to do so, decisions will be made by the local school districts. Montgomery County Office of Public Health (OPH) as of August 25, 2020, supports local Montgomery County School Districts in making the decision on sports activities. The following guidance is additional guidance for sports-related activities in Montgomery County. The additional guidance support Montgomery County's goal of getting schools open for in-person education by lowering the county's incidence rate and continuing to preserve a low positivity rate.

The guidance below is based on trends in Montgomery County where contact tracing has documented significant exposure through youth sports but has not documented transmission among youth sports teams, unless individuals engaged in a social activity outside of sports-activities. Therefore it is recommended that there be no social activities related to youth sports which includes gathering of players.

Social Distancing and Masking:

All sports-related activities must adhere to the gathering limitations set forth by the Governor's Plan for Phased Reopening. This includes 25 or fewer people for indoor activity which includes players, coaching staff, referees etc. For outside sporting events, 250 or fewer people while also adhering to social distancing recommendations of at least 6 feet of separation for anyone not in the same household.

Everyone age 2 or older must wear a face covering at all times, unless outdoors and able to consistently maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet. OPH requires all spectators and participates to take responsibility for adhering to social distancing and masking guidance provided by Governor Wolf.

Contact Tracing Preparedness:

Leagues and School Districts must be prepared and aware of the need for immediate cooperation with the OPH for contact tracing and quarantine notifications as a critical component for allowing sports to continue. Leagues and School Districts must also keep attendance at drills, trainings, scrimmages and games and be able to provide contact information (name, parent/caregiver names, address, phone number) of positive persons and individuals who are considered close contacts (within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more with or without a mask) to collaborate with OPH to complete contact tracing.

The guidance below was develop by the **Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Policy Lab** and is being adopted by Montgomery County:

Threshold	Guidance
9% or greater test positivity	Suspend all team/group competition and group sports training, revert to individual or online training and activities

<p><i>stable weekly</i> case incidence and 5% to 9% test positivity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All sports may do individual-level drills and distanced and/or masked group training • Lower-contact sports or activities with the ability to distance athletes or participants during competition (e.g., baseball, softball, track, swimming, golf) may continue to scrimmage or pursue team competition under local health department guidelines, but would be recommended to keep those events local or isolated with a couple of partner schools or teams in the area • Lower-contact sports team competitions should only be permitted with another team whose local area positivity rates and daily case incidence fall within these guidelines • Moderate-contact sports (soccer, field hockey, lacrosse) should only do individual-level drills with distancing protocols in place and not participate in team scrimmages or competitions • Moderate-risk activities (e.g., indoor competitions/clubs including science, engineering and debate clubs) should consider virtual competitions as feasible. Where indoor activity occurs, minimize the size of gatherings, enforce masking and distance all participants. • Higher-contact sports and high-risk activities without the ability to distance athletes or participants (e.g., wrestling, football, basketball, water polo) should only do individual-level drills or rehearsals with distancing protocols in place (6 ft. minimum) and not participate in team scrimmages or competitions
<p><i>stable or declining</i> weekly case incidence AND 1%-5% testing positivity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as above with the exception of moderate-contact sports or activities • Moderate-contact sports (soccer, field hockey, lacrosse) may continue to scrimmage under local health department guidelines, but would be recommended to keep those events local or isolated with a couple of partner schools or teams in the area • Moderate-contact sport team competitions should only be permitted with another team whose local area positivity rates and daily case incidence fall within these guidelines • Moderate-risk activities (e.g., indoor competitions/clubs including science, engineering, debate clubs) may continue indoor activity with masking and distancing protocols for all participants

Weekly case incidence less than 10 per 100,000 AND testing positivity below 1%

- Higher-contact sports and high-risk activities without the ability to distance athletes or participants may cautiously participate in team competitions
- Team competitions should only be permitted with another team whose local area positivity rates and daily case incidence fall within these guidelines

Music programs: 20-foot distancing is recommended for music programming that includes choir, brass and/or woodwind instruments and stage productions (actor-audience). Other music activities should maintain 6-foot distancing and masking.

References:

[Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Policy Lab, Policy Review: Evidence and Considerations for School Reopening's](#)

[Guidance for All Sport Permitted to Operate During the COVID-19 Disaster Emergency to Ensure the Safety and Health of Employees Athletics and the Public](#)