

TO: MHSAA Community

FROM: Mark Uyl, Executive Director

DATE: May 5, 2021

SUBJECT: **MHSAA Update**

Dear MHSAA Community,

With the updated MDHHS Gatherings and Face Mask Order going into effect on May 6, please see the following updated guidance.

1. **Weekly Antigen Testing & Vaccinations:** The updated order no longer requires fully vaccinated individuals to participate in the MDHHS weekly testing program. An individual is considered to be fully vaccinated by the MDHHS definition two weeks after the second dose of a two-dose vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna) or two weeks after a single-dose vaccine (Johnson & Johnson). Fully vaccinated individuals are not subject to local health department (LHD) quarantine requirements when someone is deemed to be a close contact by the LHD.
2. **Antigen Testing Order Extended:** The updated MDHHS order for weekly testing in organized athletics has been extended until May 31, 2021. Schools should continue to test spring sport athletes weekly unless individuals have had a positive COVID test (PCR or antigen/rapid test) in the past 90 days or individuals are fully vaccinated.
3. **Previous Positive COVID Tests & Future Weekly Testing:** Effective April 23, per MDHHS guidance, individuals who have recovered from a positive COVID-19 diagnosis with either a PCR test or antigen (rapid) test in the past three months (90 days) and remain symptom-free may participate in spring sports activities without weekly testing. An antibody test is not sufficient. The most logical question for schools continues to be, what proof is required of these previous positive tests? For a previous positive PCR test, there should be documentation from the lab or medical provider of that PCR test. For a previous positive antigen (rapid) test, the documentation most likely will be from a previous positive antigen (rapid) test conducted at your school during the pilot program, wrestling season or earlier in the spring sports testing cycle for an individual who has recovered and has returned following the required period of isolation. If a student has had a positive antigen (rapid) test from an entity outside of your school, you will need some type of documentation affirming that fact from that entity, which most likely will be a medical provider in most cases.

4. **Face Mask Requirements:** Contrary to current media reports, there is no change to face mask requirements for MHSAA spring sports from what has been done since March. Face masks must be worn for outdoor activity (practice and competition) in the contact sports of Boys Lacrosse, Girls Lacrosse and Girls Soccer. This includes all participants, coaches and all other team personnel; note that someone being fully vaccinated does not alter the MDHHS face mask requirements. For the non-contact spring sports of Baseball, Golf, Softball, Tennis and Track & Field, participants must wear face masks except when involved in active outdoor participation (in the game, during the round, during the match, during the race/event, during active practice activity). Coaches and all other team personnel must wear face masks at all times, including participants when on the bench, in the dugout, between individual events, etc. Remember that if any spring practice or competition moves indoors, all individuals (participants, coaches, team personnel) must wear face masks at all times.
5. **Spring Sports Spectators:** Spring spectator limits have not changed, which remain at 50% of the fire marshal capacity (if applicable) with a maximum of 1,000 outdoor spectators. If an outdoor event has more than 100 spectators, face masks are required for spectators. If an outdoor event has less than 100 spectators, face masks are no longer required.
6. **Summer Activity & Future Guidance:** This updated order is in effect until May 31, 2021. The MHSAA continues to advocate for school-based, summer athletic activity to be allowed without required testing by MDHHS. MHSAA summer regulations begin on Monday, June 7, and schools should continue to plan summer activity based on this current MDHHS guidance:
  - Outdoor, non-contact activity can take place without face masks.
  - Outdoor, contact activity can take place with face masks (soccer, football, lacrosse).
  - Indoor activity can take place with face masks.

The MHSAA will continue to communicate with schools once we have further MDHHS information on testing beyond May 31 and other safety protocols and requirements for summer activity, both indoors and outdoors.

The clear pathway for a return to “athletic normalcy” is to get as many individuals fully vaccinated as possible. The MHSAA will continue to encourage individuals to get vaccinated as soon as possible.

Thank you.