

**Pequea Valley School District  
Extracurricular Sports and Activities**

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.

**INTRODUCTION**

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented activities across the world with a myriad of challenges. The COVID-19 virus is a highly contagious illness that primarily attacks the upper respiratory system. The virus that causes COVID-19 can infect people of all ages. Research from the Centers for Disease Control, among others, has found that while children do get infected by COVID-19, relatively few children with COVID-19 are hospitalized. However, some severe outcomes have been reported in children, and a child with a mild or even asymptomatic case of COVID-19 can spread the infection to others who may be far more vulnerable. While it is not possible to eliminate all risk of furthering the spread of COVID-19, the current science suggests there are many steps schools can take to reduce the risks to learners, coaches/advisors, and their families.

The PVSD will take the necessary precautions and recommendations from the federal, state, and local governments, CDC, PA DOH, WHO, as well as the NFHS and PIAA. The PVSD 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, learners, and spectators. Updates and amendments will be provided on the Pequea Valley School District website.

***This document was updated on July 6, 2020 due to [Order of the Secretary of PA Department of Health Requiring Universal Face Coverings \( July 1,2020\)](#) and [PIAA Press Release \(July 3, 2020\)](#). The Safety and Health team contacted the coaches/staff on July 3,2020 of the update and changes to the plan.***

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Recommendations for **ALL LEVELS** for extracurricular activities:

1. Learners and Staff will undergo a COVID- 19 health screening prior to any practice, event, or team meeting. The type of screening will be dependent upon the available resources and the Phase level. The purpose is to check for signs and symptoms of COVID-19. The screenings could range from a verbal/written questionnaire to a temperature check. Temperatures at 100.4 or higher will be sent home.
2. Promote healthy hygiene activities such as hand washing (20 seconds with warm water and soap) and employees wearing a cloth face covering as feasible. (Face coverings are recommended to help decrease potential exposure to COVID-19 respiratory droplets by an infected individual. Face Coverings will not be used for athletes while practicing or competing.) Hand Sanitizer will be available for team use as resources allow.
3. Intensify cleaning, disinfection, and ventilation in all facilities.
4. Encourage social distancing through increased spacing, small groups, and limited mixing between groups, if feasible.
5. Educate learners and staff on health and safety protocols
6. Anyone who is sick must stay home.

7. Plan in place if a learner or employee gets sick
8. Regularly communicate and monitor developments with local authorities, employees, and families regarding cases, exposures, and updates to policies and procedures.
9. Learners and staff MUST provide their own water bottle for hydration. Water bottles must not be shared.
10. PPE (gloves, masks, eye protection) will be used as needed and situations warrant, or determined by local/state governments.

**\*\* Due to [Order of the Secretary of PA Department of Health Requiring Universal Face Coverings](#)**

*( July 1,2020) Learners and staff are considered to be members of the public who are congregating in indoor locations. As such, they are required to adhere to this Order and wear face coverings, unless they fall under an exception listed in Section 3 of the Order.*

**\*\* Due to [PIAA Press Release](#) (July 3, 2020) Everyone must wear a face covering, such as a mask, unless they fall under an exception listed in Section 3 of the Order. Coaches, athletes and spectators must wear face coverings unless they are outdoors and can consistently maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet. Athletes are not required to wear face coverings while actively engaged in workouts and competition that prevent the wearing of face coverings, but must wear face coverings when on the sidelines, in the dugout, etc. and anytime 6 feet of social distancing is not possible.**

*(Updated July 6,2020)*

Update after July 9,2020 Board Meeting:

**\*\* If players/learners are indoors and can keep 3-6 feet distancing (Recommendation of World Health Organization (WHO) and Center of Disease Control (CDC)) during their practice/event they may remove their face covering. When they are moving between stations or cannot keep recommended social distancing face coverings need to be used.**

11. Identify staff and learners who may be at a higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19 due to underlying medical conditions (See - CDC "People Who are at a Higher Risk for Severe Illness").
12. Concession stands or other food must adhere to the Guidance for Businesses in the Restaurant Industry.
13. Locker Rooms will not available
14. There MUST be two staff members for each activity.

## **CLASSIFICATION OF ACTIVITIES**

**High Risk:** Activities that involve close, sustained contact between participants, lack of significant protective barriers, and high probability that respiratory particles will be transmitted between participants. Examples: football, wrestling, cheerleading (stunts), etc.

**Moderate Risk:** Activities 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, baseball, softball, soccer, tennis, 7 on 7 football.

**Low Risk:** Activities that can be done with social distancing or individually with no sharing of equipment or the ability to clean the equipment between uses by participants. Examples: running events, cross country, e-sports, marching band, golf, weightlifting, sideline cheer, etc.

\*\* High/Moderate Risk Activities may move to a Low risk category with non-contact modifications. Team Activities should be limited to individual skill development drills that maintain social distancing.

## **LEVELS OF PARTICIPATION**

### **Level 1 (PA State Red)**

Team Activities: No In-person gatherings allowed, learners and Coaches/advisors may communicate via online meetings (zoom, google meet, etc.)

- All school facilities remain closed as per PA State Guidelines
- Learners and coaches/advisors should abide by guidelines set forth by the local and state governments

### **Level 2 (PA State Yellow or Green - once permitted by PIAA)**

Team Activities may include: team meetings, open gym, kick around, weight training/conditioning, marching band, running events, cross country, golf, sideline cheer, and other extracurricular activities

#### **Pre- event Screening:**

- All staff and learners should be screened for signs/symptoms of COVID-19 prior to an activity. The screenings could range from a verbal/written questionnaire to a temperature check (See Appendix for COVID-19 Screening Form)
- Responses to screening questions for each person should be recorded and stored so that there is a record of everyone present in case a learner develops COVID-19
- Any person with positive symptoms reported should not be allowed to take part in activities and should contact his or her primary care provider or other appropriate health-care professional. A clearance may be required to return to play

#### **Limitations on Gatherings:**

- No gathering of more than (25 Yellow - 250 Green) individuals per group including coaches/advisors per practice area
- Controlled non-contact activities only, modified game rules
- Social Distancing should be applied during activities and in locker rooms, and gathering areas.

#### **Facilities Cleaning:**

- Adequate cleaning schedules should be created and implemented for all facilities to mitigate any communicable disease
- Facilities should be cleaned prior to arrival and post activities and team gatherings, high touch areas should be cleaned more often
- Weight Room Equipment should be wiped down after an individual's use
- Appropriate clothing/shoes should be worn at all times in the weight room to minimize sweat from transmitting onto equipment surfaces

**Physical Activity:**

- Lower risk sports activities may begin
- Modified activities may begin for Moderate and High-risk sports (activities must remain non-contact and include social distancing where applicable, activity should focus on individual skill development)
- Learners should refrain from sharing clothing/towels and should be washed after each practice, including pinnies
- Equipment that may be used by multiple individuals (balls, shields, tackling dummies, etc.) should be cleaned during practice and events as resources allow
- Hand Sanitizer should be used periodically as resources allow
- Spotters for maximum weight lifts should be stationed at each end of the bar

**Hydration:**

- Learners MUST bring their own water bottle. Water bottles must not be shared
- Hydration stations (water coolers, water fountains, etc.) should not be utilized

**Level 3 (PA State Green - once permitted by PIAA)**

Team activities may include: basketball, marching band, e-sports, baseball, softball, soccer, tennis, 7 on 7 football, etc.

**Pre-activity/Contest Screening:**

- Any person who has COVID-19 symptoms should not be allowed to participate in practice/games, and should contact their primary care physician or another appropriate health-care provider. A clearance may be required to return to play
- COVID-19 Screenings (Questionnaire and Temperature Checks may continue as per State and Local government recommendations).
- Activity attendance should be recorded

**Limitations on Gatherings:**

- As per State and Local Guidelines

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*(Updated July 6, 2020)*

Update after July 9, 2020 Board Meeting:

*\*\* If players/learners are indoors and can keep 3-6 feet distancing (Recommendation of World Health Organization (WHO) and Center of Disease Control (CDC)) during their practice/event they may*

remove their face covering. When they are moving between stations or cannot keep recommended social distancing face coverings need to be used.

- When not directly participating in activities or contests, social distancing should be considered and applied when able

**Facilities Cleaning:**

- Adequate cleaning schedules should be created and implemented for all athletic facilities to mitigate any communicable disease
- Facilities should be cleaned prior to arrival and post activities and team gatherings, high touch areas should be cleaned more often
- Equipment should be wiped down after and individual's use
- Appropriate clothing/shoes should be worn at all times in the weight room to minimize sweat from transmitting onto equipment surfaces

**Physical Activity and Equipment:**

- Low, Moderate, and High-Risk activities and Low and Moderate Risk competitions may begin (As per State, Local, and PIAA Guidelines)
- Learners should refrain from sharing clothing/towels and should be washed after each practice, including pinnies.
- Equipment that may be used by multiple individuals (balls, battons, flags, shields, tackling dummies, , etc.) should be cleaned intermittently during practice and events as deemed necessary
- Hand Sanitizer should be used periodically as resources allow
- Spotters for maximum weight lifts should be stationed at each end of the bar

**Hydration:**

- Learners MUST bring their own water bottle. Water bottles must not be shared
- Hydration Stations may be used but MUST be cleaned after every practice/event

**Level 4 (PA State Green - once permitted by PIAA)**

Team Activities include: Low/Moderate Sports may resume. High Risk Sports (Football, Wrestling, and Cheerleading Stunting) may begin full person to person contact and competition

**Pre-activity/Contest Screening:**

- Any person who has COVID-19 symptoms should not be allowed to participate in practice/games, and should contact their primary care physician or another appropriate health-care provider
- COVID-19 Screenings (Questionnaire and Temperature Checks may continue as per State and Local government recommendations)
- Team attendance should be recorded

**Limitations on Gatherings:**

- As per State and Local Guidelines

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- When not directly participating in activities or contests, social distancing should be considered and applied when able

**Facilities Cleaning:**

- Adequate cleaning schedules should be created and implemented for all facilities to mitigate any communicable disease
- Facilities should be cleaned prior to arrival and post activities and team gatherings, high touch areas should be cleaned more often
- Weight Room Equipment should be wiped down after individual's use
- Appropriate clothing/shoes should be worn at all times in the weight room to minimize sweat from transmitting onto equipment surfaces

**Physical Activity and Equipment:**

- All activities may resume normal practice and competition
- Learners should refrain from sharing clothing/towels and should be washed after each practice, including pinnies.
- Equipment that may be used by multiple individuals (balls, shields, tackling dummies, etc.) should be cleaned after practices and events as resources allowed.
- Hand Sanitizer should be used periodically as resources allow
- Spotters for maximum weight lifts should be stationed at each end of the bar

**Hydration:**

- Learners MUST bring their own water bottle. Water bottles must not be shared.
- Hydration Stations may be used but MUST be cleaned after every practice/event

**OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Transportation:**

Modifications for learner/coach transportation to and from athletic events may be necessary. This may include:

- Reducing the number of learners/coaches/advisors on a bus/van
- Using hand sanitizer upon boarding a bus/van
- Social distancing on a bus

These potential modifications will be determined by the school district, bus companies, Department of Education, State and Local governments.

### **Social Distancing during Contests/Events/Activities**

- Appropriate social distancing will need to be maintained during contests and events, as deemed necessary by the school, PIAA, state and local governments. Consider using tape or paint as a guide for learners and coaches/advisors.

### **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/advisors, officials, event staff, medical staff, security
  2. Tier 2 (Preferred) – Media
  3. Tier 3 (Non-essential) – Spectators, vendors
- Only Tier 1 and 2 personnel will be allowed to attend events until state/local governments lift restrictions on mass gatherings.
  - 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**

- The PVSD will evaluate each event and follow all local/state government guidelines on a case by case basis. Every consideration will be taken as to not expose learners to unnecessary or potential high-risk exposure.

## **POSITIVE CASES AND COACHES/ADVISORS, 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 (100.4 or High)
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- 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/advisor)
- It will be determined if others who may have been exposed (learners, coaches/advisors, 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 learner 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 learner or staff member can leave the school or event
- If learner, parent/guardian will be contacted immediately, and arrangements will be made for the learner to be picked up
- Ill individual will be asked to contact their physician or appropriate healthcare professional for direction

**Return of learner or staff to activities following a COVID-19 diagnosis?**

- Learner 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.

**EDUCATION**

Staff, coaches/advisors, parents and learners will be educated on the following (through posters, flyers, meetings, emails, phone calls, websites):

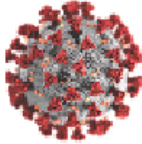
- COVID-19 signs and symptoms
- Proper ways to limit exposure to COVID-19 (hand washing, cough in your elbow, disinfecting touched surfaces, social distancing, avoid touching eyes, nose, face and mouth, no spitting, gum chewing, etc.)
- No Handshakes/Celebrations (high fives, fist/elbow bumps, chest bumps, hugging), etc.
- Any pertinent COVID-19 information released by state/local governments, NFHS, and PIAA.
- learners should come dressed for activity
- Limit indoor activities and the areas used. Locker room use is not permitted Facility showers cannot be used
- Learners should remain with their assigned groups during each activity and during daily activities to limit the number of people they come in contact with.
- No learners allowed in areas without the presence of staff



# APPENDIX



# 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:

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

### Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

**Website:** [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html)

“What You Should Know About COVID-19 to Protect Yourself and Others”,

“Schools Decision Tree”

### PA Department of Health

**Website:** [health.pa.gov](https://www.health.pa.gov)

“Coronavirus Symptoms”

“What is Contact Tracing”

“Phased Reopening 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

### **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**

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

Concession stands or other food must adhere to the Guidance for Businesses in the Restaurant Industry.

<https://www.governor.pa.gov/covid-19/restaurant-industry-guidance/>

*Added on July 6, 2020:*

[Order of the Secretary of PA Department of Health Requiring Universal Face Coverings](#) (July 1, 2020)

[PIAA Press Release](#) (July 3, 2020)