



michigan high school athletic association

Mark Uyl, Executive Director

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TO: MHSAA Community
FROM: Mark Uyl, Executive Director
DATE: March 19, 2021
SUBJECT: **MHSAA Update**

Dear MHSAA Community,

Here is an update following today's press conference and release of the updated MDHHS epidemic order that goes into effect on March 22, 2021.

- Winter sports and tournaments will proceed as scheduled with no changes to current face mask requirements in all winter sports. Wrestlers must continue to complete a rapid antigen test within 24 hours of competition.
- Effective April 2, all remaining winter sports athletes must participate in the rapid antigen testing program. This will impact a very small percentage of winter sports athletes: Individual Finals participants in wrestling (no change as they are already testing) and Quarterfinal, Semifinal and Final basketball teams. MDHHS will issue further guidance on this testing program tomorrow, March 20, that will address frequency of testing and other requirements.
- Effective April 2, spring sports athletes must participate in the rapid antigen testing program. MDHHS will issue further guidance on this testing program tomorrow, March 20, that will address frequency of testing and other requirements. At this time, there are many things we do not know about the testing of spring athletes. We hope to have further information to you next week well in advance of the April 2 effective date.
- The age group identified in the order for testing is 13-19, which would include both high school and middle school sports and teams.
- The MDHHS order states that face masks do not have to be worn when individuals are exercising **outdoors** and are able to consistently maintain six feet of distance from others. For spring sports practices that begin on Monday, outdoor practices in sports such as golf, tennis and track & field would not require face masks if six feet of distance from others can be maintained. If outdoor activity cannot maintain six feet of distance or indoor activity takes place, face masks must be worn by all individuals. We are seeking updated guidance from MDHHS about face masks in the non-contact sports of baseball, girls lacrosse and softball. Know that face masks are required in the contact sports of boys lacrosse and girls soccer at all times.

This is the information we have learned from the updated MDHHS order this morning. We will continue to share information from MDHHS as it reaches us.

Thank you.