



michigan high school athletic association

Mark Uyl, Executive Director

1661 Ramblewood Drive • East Lansing, MI 48823-7392 • 517-332-5046 • Fax 517-332-4071 • Web mhsaa.com

TO: MHSAA Community
FROM: Mark Uyl, Executive Director
DATE: April 16, 2021
SUBJECT: **MHSAA Update**

Dear MHSAA Community,

The MHSAA has received several inquiries from schools regarding antigen testing, other spring sports questions and pre-participation physicals for next school year. Below are updates and clarifications for member schools. **Please take the time to review ALL of these points.**

1. Antigen Testing and Vaccines: The current MDHHS order on testing for athletics DOES NOT provide a waiver from antigen testing for a student-athlete who has received a vaccine, even both doses. A vaccine DOES NOT excuse a student-athlete from the MDHHS weekly antigen testing requirement.
2. Antigen Testing Order Extended: The current MDHHS order on testing for organized athletics has been extended until May 24, 2021. Schools should continue to test spring sport athletes weekly.
3. Prior Positive COVID PCR Tests: Individuals who have recovered from a laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis in the past three months (90 days), have quarantined and remain symptom-free may participate in team sports activities without antigen testing if they can provide a letter from a doctor **or** documentation confirming a positive PCR test (this clears up confusion in the MDHHS FAQ). The individual must have had a positive PCR diagnostic test within the past three months. A positive rapid test or antibody test, only, is not sufficient to waive the current weekly test requirement.
4. Further guidance on the MDHHS – MI SAFER SPORTS TESTING PROGRAM can be found in this document: https://www.michigan.gov/documents/coronavirus/MI_Safer_Sports_COVID_Testing_Program_Frequently_Asked_Questions_715802_7.pdf
5. Antigen Testing of Out-of-Season Athletes: The recent MDHHS order is intended to test in-season spring sport athletes who will be competing against other schools. Only in-season, spring sport athletes must be tested. Out-of-season activity that is held indoors must be masked using physical distance with all safety protocols continuing to be followed. Schools may consider pausing all **out-of-season indoor** activity including weight training, four-player groups and open gyms.

6. Spring Sport Spectator Guidance: Where applicable, occupancy must not exceed 50 percent of the limits established by the State Fire Marshal or a local fire marshal; and groups must remain at least six feet apart at all times. For outdoor entertainment and recreational facilities and for stadiums and arenas, no more than 1,000 patrons may be gathered.
7. MHSAA Spring Sport Return to Play Guidance: There have been updates to the Return to Play Guidance in some spring sports. It is critical that schools, administrators and coaches are following the most recent updates to the Return To Play Guidance, which are found at MHSAA.com on each spring sport webpage.
8. Sports Physicals: For the 2021-22 school year, an MHSAA pre-participation sports physical is required for all students who participate in sports. A physical examination must be completed on or after April 15, 2021 to be considered a valid physical for 2021-22. The MHSAA Health Questionnaire will not be in use for next school year. **Please be sure to inform all parents and students – especially those who will begin middle school next fall – of the April 15 date.** The MHSAA two-page physical form has not changed and remains on MHSAA.com. MHSAA physical cards can be ordered by schools as needed.

The MHSAA will continue to communicate with schools with new information as it becomes available.

Thank you.