



2021-22 MHSAA Winter Sports Guidance

Updated: November 3, 2021

Member schools must continue to follow orders of your local county health department. Given there are no current statewide orders from MDHHS regarding face masks, crowd limitations or testing, schools will continue to follow local county health department orders as has been done since August of 2021. The MHSAA plan and approach for the completion of fall tournaments and the start of winter sports remains unchanged from the past three months.

Here is a summary of current MHSAA guidance:

- 1) MHSAA member schools must continue to follow the orders of their local county health departments.
- 2) The MHSAA will continue to follow all current government orders. There is currently no statewide face mask order, thus the MHSAA has no face mask requirement.
- 3) Local school districts and county health departments that do require face masks will serve as the authority for their school buildings. This means that teams/individuals participating at those buildings will follow any requirement set forth by the host during both regular season and postseason play. Note that with many winter sports using non-school facilities (ice rinks, bowling centers, etc), local facility, venue and health department restrictions may have face mask requirements or spectator limits. It is best practice to check locally with your facilities prior to hosting events or practices at their venue.
- 4) There is currently no MDHHS statewide requirement for testing of any athletes.

MHSAA Recommendation- For those local county health departments or school districts with a mask requirement, the MHSAA recommends that those schools within those areas consider and propose an exception that allows for students and officials in **active participation** to do so without a face mask. The wearing of face masks in some sports during active participation such as wrestling (during the match), swimming & diving (preparing to enter the water), competitive cheer (during the round), basketball (while in the game) and gymnastics (during the routine) could create safety hazards that have been identified by national medical organizations.