



## **OVERVIEW OF IMPORTANT RETURN-TO-PLAY TOPICS**

*This document was updated on March 24, 2021. Over time, this document will change. Please check back frequently for updates. The first four pages of this document feature easy-to-understand overviews of Spring 2020-21 COVID-document-related guidelines. For more detailed answers, read this entire packet. Spring athletics will not be risk-free, but by following the guidance in this document, we all can help mitigate those risks. You should also consider your interactions outside of sports during this season in order to limit the potential for exposure in other portions of your daily routine.*

**PROTOCOL FOR POSITIVE CASES:** A detailed and more complete version of these protocols can be found on page 4 of this document (“What to Do When Someone Gets Sick”).

1. Contact health department and follow guidance.
2. Close contacts MAY have to quarantine for 14 days; follow health department guidance. “Close contact” is defined as someone who was within six feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period, starting from two days before illness onset.
3. Notify all schools, families and officials involved without identifying the person involved.
4. Students, coaches, officials and others at the event but NOT in close contact should be closely monitored for symptoms and may not need testing. Follow health department guidance.
5. Clean the area.

**FACE MASKS:** The March 2, 2021 order issued by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), as amended, mandates that masks are to be worn during practice and competition for outdoor contact sports. Additionally, if practices are held indoors, masks must be worn in ALL sports at ALL times. In general, face masks are required for athletes in boys lacrosse, girls lacrosse and girls soccer at all times. Face masks are optional for athletes in active participation in all other spring sports but are required at all other times when not involved in active participation. Bench personnel are required to wear face masks at all times. This includes athletes not currently in the game, coaches, managers, trainers, statisticians, media and anyone else on the sideline. If a student has a disability or medical situation that would not permit a mask to be worn, the student would need to obtain documentation of such disability or medical situation from a medical provider (MD, DO, PA, NP) and complete a negative COVID test within 24 hours (rapid antigen test) or 72 hours (PCR test) for each day of competition and practice. Both items must be documented and paper copies shall be made available to all officials and opponents prior to each contest. Management, school administrators, table personnel, announcers, media, broadcasters and all staff are required to wear face masks. Spectators are required to wear face masks.

**REGULAR-SEASON TOURNAMENTS, INVATIONALS, MULTI-TEAM COMPETITIONS:** The following limitations are in place for regular season spring tournaments and invitationals, both home and away. Regular-season dual/head-to-head matchups, between multiple levels of two different schools, are not affected.

- Baseball – four schools/teams at a site
- Golf – traditional contest limits apply
- Lacrosse – four schools/teams at a site
- Soccer – four schools/teams at a site
- Softball – four schools/teams at a site
- Tennis – traditional contest limits apply
- Track & Field – 16 single-gender teams at a site

When determining the number of teams present at a tournament, count the school’s varsity team as one team, and its JV team as a second team. The goal is to achieve physical distancing at all possible times; teams not in competition should be provided adequate space, and spectator limitations must be followed. Consider staggered contest and team arrival times to maintain physical distancing.

**Where two sites and/or facilities are used, there should not be any crossover competition between the two tournaments.**

**SCRIMMAGES:** There are no scrimmages allowed for any sports this spring.

**SPECTATOR LIMITATIONS:** The current MDHHS epidemic order indicates that outdoor entertainment and recreation facilities must not allow more than 1,000 patrons to gather. Schools may limit spectators further (two per participant, as suggested by MDHHS) but the order defines the maximum number of spectators based on facility size and type.

If local health department orders exist that are stricter than these updated MHSAA requirements, member schools and host venues are expected to follow those local orders.

Sideline cheerleaders, dance team members and pompon squads would be considered participants if a school allows. If a non-athletic support organization such as a pep band is allowed at a facility, all those individuals must be counted in the total number of spectators.

**ENTRANCE/EXIT STRATEGIES:** Event organizers and venues must consider proper scheduling, seating areas, and crowd entry and exit to facilitate needed sanitizing and physical distancing protocols.

**PRE-WORKOUT AND PRE-GAME SCREENING:** All coaches and students should be screened daily for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 prior to participating, including with a temperature check. This check may take place onsite or be completed and verified prior to arrival onsite (at home, for example). Anyone with a temperature of greater than 100.3 degrees should not participate and be sent home. Responses to screening questions for each person should be recorded and stored so that there is a record of everyone present in case a student develops COVID-19. These records must be kept confidential. Any person displaying symptoms of COVID-19 should not be allowed to participate, should self-isolate and contact his or her primary care provider or other healthcare professional. Continue to remind and insist that coaches and students disclose symptoms so all schools can compete safely. Involve local health departments if positive cases of COVID are discovered. Vulnerable adult individuals should not coach, supervise or participate in any competitions or workouts. School districts will make the decision on vulnerable individuals.

**COVID GAME CANCELLATIONS:** Any game or contest cancelled because of COVID issues is not considered a forfeit. It is considered a no-play, provided the contest has not started. For officials' payment purposes, this is considered an act of God.

**TICKETS:** Schools should strongly consider using a digital ticket or cashless system. Schools must work together to develop a distribution plan for the limited amount of tickets available per game. If a physical ticket is used, each school should consider conducting a pre-sale, with no onsite ticket sales – only tickets, not money, is collected at the event site.

**TRANSPORTATION:** The use of buses is a local school district decision. Cleaning and ability to physically distance should be part of the decision. Schools should also consider length of trips when determining the season schedule. When feasible, consider having parents drive athletes to and from games.

**LOCKER ROOMS:** Home teams are not required to offer locker room access. Visiting teams should arrive dressed and ready to play. Locker room restrooms should be available, and a cleaning schedule should be created.

**FACILITY CLEANING:** Adequate cleaning schedules should be created and implemented for all athletic facilities. Prior to an individual or groups of individuals entering a facility, hard surfaces within that facility should be wiped down and sanitized (bleachers, chairs, furniture in meeting rooms, locker rooms, weight room equipment, bathrooms, athletic training room tables, etc.). Individuals should wash their hands for a minimum of 20 seconds before participating in workouts. Hand sanitizer should be plentiful and available to individuals as they transfer from place to place.

**CONCESSIONS:** The current MDHHS order states that consumption of food or beverages is permitted only where patrons are seated and those groups of patrons are separated by at least six feet. The order also states that no more than six patrons may be seated at a table and those groups of patrons cannot intermingle.

## **BEST PRACTICES FOR NON-ATHLETES – THIS IS NOT SPORT-SPECIFIC**

### **Administrators/Host Management**

- Administrators must wear face masks and practice physical distancing.
- Obtain officials' information in order to trace contacts if necessary. (This information may be accessible through Arbiter.)
- Provide clear instruction to teams in advance of contests about entrance and exit points of the facility.
- At larger spectator events, consider providing volunteers to monitor entrances and spectator seating areas who can promote physical distancing and face masks.
- Schools should restrict spectator seating to allow for adequate spacing between the spectators and contest participants e.g. permit a scorer's table/judge's table and benches to be moved back or use the first row of bleachers for team bench seating if needed.
- When possible, officials and teams should be provided separate bathrooms and/or gathering areas.
- Scorer's Table/Press Box – essential personnel should be 6 feet apart when possible.
- A cordless microphone could be used.
- Cleaning supplies should be available onsite with devices sanitized between uses.

### **Coaches**

- Coaches must wear face masks and practice physical distancing.
- Provide and review NFHS Playing Rule modifications with players and parents.

### **Spectators**

- Spectators must wear face masks and practice physical distancing.
- Entrance and exit protocols, and posted signs by host management must be obeyed.

### **Media Personnel**

- Media must wear face masks and practice physical distancing.
- Press box/table accommodations should allow for appropriate physical distancing.
- Promote to local media the need to call in advance of the event to secure accommodations.
- Designate locations where photographers may shoot from and enforce it. Make sure photographers are aware of restrictions when they arrive. Photographers must be kept out of team box and bench areas.
- Limit postgame interviews to open-air areas. No locker room access.
- Establish times when the venue will become available to the media and when it will close.



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This information is provided to schools to help conduct a high school boys lacrosse season. The intent of this information is to minimize and reduce risk as much as possible. As such, parents and athletes should discuss the risks and determine if these provisions allow participation for their child.

The situation with COVID-19 continues to change and these considerations may quickly become outdated. Continue to keep up with the latest from the CDC and your local health department. A coach and the athletic director within the program should be designated to be responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns.

### Face Coverings

- Face coverings are currently REQUIRED for participation in boys lacrosse. *This is mandated by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, which has been granted that authority by the state legislature: MCL 333.2253.*
- Face coverings must be worn during all boys lacrosse activities, including all training, practices and contests. This includes all times during active participation and all times during non-active participation when 6 feet of physical distance cannot be maintained.
- Surgical masks, traditional cloth/fabric masks, and gaiters are allowed and acceptable face coverings under the face covering requirement, provided the face coverings are unaltered as produced by the manufacturer in the nose and/or mouth area, and completely cover the nose and mouth.
- Clear, molded, and non-rigid face shields designed to attach to the helmet and approved by the helmet manufacturer, such as the products by Cascade, Schutte, and Tektor, are acceptable. Cloth face shield products that are designed to attach to the face mask, such as the product by Helmet Barrier, are also acceptable.
- It is recommended but not required that cloth face coverings be worn in addition to plastic helmet shields.
- **Face shields attached to helmets are only acceptable under the face covering requirement if the shield covers both the mouth and nose, is a solid piece of material (i.e., no holes) and the helmet is being worn.** If the shield breaks or the helmet is removed, players are still required to wear a face covering; it is advisable for all players to have multiple face coverings available for such situations.
- Officials have the authority to remove ANY PLAYER who, after being warned by an official to properly wear a face covering, fails to do so. The player may not return until the next dead ball situation.
- Extra, unused face coverings should be on hand and readily available in the event a face covering becomes damaged or unusable.
- Per MDHHS orders, face coverings are currently required for all coaches, spectators, and event workers at all times. Officials are not required to wear a face covering while actively officiating during game play, but will be required to wear a face covering at all other times.

### Face Coverings for Faceoff Players

- Although all players will be required to wear a face covering at all times, during practice and competition, **any player taking a faceoff will be required to wear two layers of face covering during the faceoff**, and one layer must be a tightly woven cloth or other multi-layer absorbent material mask (e.g., traditional cloth mask, surgical mask, etc.) that closely and completely covers an individual's mouth and nose, and the portions that cover the nose and mouth unaltered as produced by the manufacturer. **The second layer may be a second cloth mask, a non-rigid plastic face shield covering the mouth and nose designed to attached to the helmet, or a cloth face shield covering the mouth and nose designed to attached to the helmet.** A faceoff player may remove one of the two required face coverings when they depart from the field of play or at a stoppage of play by the officials.

- Officials will have the authority to remove any player from the faceoff that does not have the required face covering – the player removed can be replaced in the faceoff by a player wearing the proper face covering.

### Competition Guidelines

- All participants are required to wear a facial covering at all times – this includes, players, coaches, game/bench personnel, event staff, and spectators. Officials are not required to wear a face covering while actively officiating during game play, but will be required to wear a face covering at all other times.
- Whenever possible, all participants should avoid close and frequent contact.
- Cleaning/sanitizing supplies should be readily available onsite.
- All players and officials should have access to their own hand sanitizer and sanitize regularly throughout the contest, especially before and after equipment inspections.
- Only essential personnel (players, coaches, officials, scorer's table personnel, athletic trainers, team managers, credentialed media) should be permitted on the field and on the sidelines.
- Hydration/Nutrition - All participants should have their own water bottles/drinks and snacks. There is to be no sharing of food or drink. Public drinking facilities/hydration stations (water cows, water troughs, water fountains, etc.) should not be used.

### NFHS Rules Modifications

1. **Scorer's table (1-2-7):** The scorer's table should be extended/large enough to provide adequate spacing for 6-foot social distancing between individuals. Minimize table personnel – official scorer and timekeeper only; visiting team personnel should be at their team bench and not at the table.
2. **The coaches' and players' box (1-2-8 & 1-2-9):** Both the coaches' area and the players' area will be extended to the end line to ensure proper social distancing. Make sure this extended area is used for its intended purpose; teams must spread out on the sideline. Coaches using the extended box to abuse officials will not be tolerated.
3. **Face covering requirement – player equipment (1-9):** All players are required to wear a face covering at all times during competition. Any player taking a faceoff will be required to wear two layers of face covering during the faceoff. SEE SECTIONS ABOVE FOR SPECIFICS REGARDING FACE COVERINGS.
4. Officials will have the authority to remove any player from the faceoff that does not have the required face covering – the player removed can be replaced in the faceoff by a player wearing the proper face covering. Officials also have the authority to remove ANY PLAYER who, after being warned by an official to properly wear a face covering, fails to do so. The player may not return until the next dead ball situation.
5. **Face Off Mechanic (4-3-3):** Faceoffs Procedure – Officials should conduct quick and efficient faceoffs. In an effort to limit contact with shared equipment and allow officials to maintain 6 feet of physical distance from players as much as possible, players will be responsible for all ball handling and placing the ball on faceoffs.
  - a. Following a goal, the defensive team that was just scored on will be responsible for retrieving the ball from their own goal, and then placing the ball for the faceoff. A player puts the ball on the faceoff X and the official will give verbal instructions on any adjustments that need to be made regarding the placement of the ball.
  - b. Official will instruct the players to go Down for the faceoff.
  - c. Official will give quick instructions to make sure players are correctly aligned.
  - d. Once both players are aligned, the official will give the Set command and then blow the whistle to start play. Once the whistle is blown and the faceoff is initiated, the aim will be to make sure the ball is out quickly. If the ball is not out quickly, the official shall stop play and award the ball following a technical foul for withholding (i.e., if a player's cross is clamped down on the ball, resulting in a scrum) – or, if there is no technical foul, the ball will be awarded by alternate position.
6. **Stick Checks – Illegal Equipment Inspection (4-27):** Players will not directly hand officials sticks for inspection. Players will place the stick on the field and walk away, and the official will inspect the stick, and then alert the player to retrieve the stick and of the results of the stick check.

### On-Field Pregame

- Pregame equipment checks should be conducted after the players have placed their equipment on the field and left the field. Officials then may inspect the equipment and blow the whistle to alert the teams to get their equipment and find the results of the equipment check.

- Effective January 2021, coaches must ensure that goalkeepers are to wear chest protectors designed for lacrosse that comply with the NOCSAE ND200 standard. There is no need to inspect this equipment. The pregame equipment certification by the head coach attesting all players are properly equipped will suffice.
- **No lineup. Coaches to relay information to their teams.**
- Meeting with faceoff players: It is suggested that no meeting with faceoff players take place, but with the change to the faceoff mechanic, a brief meeting among the officials and faceoff players may be necessary, especially early in the season to discuss the procedure. All officials and players must be masked, remain physically distanced, and any instructions must be verbal.
- Meeting with captains: One captain for each team, captains stay apart, official shows coin result to each captain.
- Team bench areas should be extended and more clearly marked to remind players of proper location.

### **Postgame**

- No handshakes or team gatherings.
- After the end of a game, players should go directly to their team bench area and avoid close contact with their opponents and others when possible.
- No rushing of the goalie, scrums or dog piles are to occur after the game.
- Officials should leave the playing area immediately and return to their vehicles.

### **Pre-Workout/Practice & Pre-Contest Screening:**

- All coaches and students should be screened daily for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 prior to participating, including a temperature check. This check may take place onsite or be completed and verified prior to arrival onsite (at home, for example). Anyone with a temperature greater than 100.3 degrees should not participate and be sent home. Responses to screening questions for each person should be recorded and stored for everyone present in case a student develops COVID-19. These records must be kept confidential.
- Any person displaying symptoms of COVID:
  - Should not be allowed to participate.
  - Should self-isolate and contact his or her primary care provider or other healthcare professional.
- Continue to remind and insist that coaches and students disclose symptoms so all schools can compete safely. Involve local health departments if positive cases of COVID are discovered. Vulnerable adults should not coach, supervise or participate in any competitions or workouts. School districts will make the decision on vulnerable individuals.
- The MHSAA COVID Tracking Form is provided on the last page of this document.
- Schools may also develop their own online survey (Google Forms, or other software applications) used for contact tracing. Many schools currently are utilizing this system for daily attendance, with parents providing the information. This may be something you can develop through your school system. You may also consider developing a QR Code for wrestlers to access forms/applications without touching pens/paper.
- Below are typical questions to ask daily before participation:
  1. *That day's date*
  2. *Last Name*
  3. *First Name*
  4. *Have you been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the past 14 days?*
  5. *Are you experiencing symptoms typically associated with COVID-19 such as: rash, diarrhea, fever, coughing, fatigue, headache, chills, loss of taste/smell or respiratory distress?*
  6. *Have you been in contact with anyone who has a suspected or confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19 in the past 14 days?*
  7. *Have you taken medicine for a fever or body aches within the past 24 hours?*
  8. *If you have answered "YES" or your temperature is 100.3 degrees or higher, you are not able to participate in today's activities. Please isolate and contact your primary care physician for direction.*
  9. *By submitting, I am certifying that all information supplied is accurate and true.*

### **Practice Guidelines/Protocols:**

- All participants are required to wear a facial covering.

- Practice as normal. Contact and intra-squad scrimmaging can occur, but scrimmages/practices with other teams are not allowed.
- Team Meetings – Observe social distancing; wearing of face masks required.
- Handouts/Rule Books – Use of online materials, emails, sport team apps and other electronic communication is recommended.
- Hydration/Food, Snacks – All players must provide their own water bottles or drinks and snacks. There is to be no sharing of food or drink. Also, public drinking facilities/hydration stations (water cows, water troughs, water fountains, etc.) should not be used. Coaches/teams should not provide food or drink to players unless it is individualized to each player and/or commercially prepared or prepackaged.
- Where possible, workouts should be conducted in “pods” of students with the same small group (includes coaches and participants) always working out together. This minimizes contacts and assists in contact tracing.
- Coaches should be cognizant of keeping physical space between athletes whenever possible, especially if they are not in active participation during a drill or activity (avoid lines where players are less than 6 feet apart). Spread out all drills and use entire facility/field areas to maintain 6-foot distancing.
- There should be no shared personal athletic equipment (sticks, gloves, helmet, shoulder pads/chest protection, pennies/jerseys, towels, etc.) or clothing. All personal athletic equipment and clothing should be cleaned/sanitized/washed after each use.
- Activity/drills requiring the use of shared equipment (e.g., dumbbells, medicine balls, cones, etc.) are permissible, but the equipment should be cleaned and disinfected as permitted, before, during and after workouts.
- Cleaning/sanitizing supplies should be readily available onsite.
- Coach Modeling – Coaches should be great role models for their players and observe all health and safety guidelines. Coaches should promote physical distancing on the field, while keeping players active and engaged at all times. Although all coaches must be cognizant of guidelines, we recommend each team designate an assistant coach as a Safety/Hygiene Coordinator whose main responsibility is to ensure safety protocols.
- Player Habits – Coaches should work to continue to reinforce safe and healthy habits. This includes staying away from touching their faces, social distancing of 6 feet between individuals, no spitting, and constant hand washing.
- Hand Sanitizer and/or Sanitizing Wipes – Players and coaches are encouraged to provide their own hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol) and/or sanitizing wipes. Coaches and other team officials should have this on the bench.
- Coaches should provide breaks often, where participants can sanitize regularly.
- Players should have a separate face covering that they use for practice, and one they wear when not training. These face coverings need to be washed regularly and often.

### **General Considerations:**

#### **Scheduling:**

- **Cancellations:** Any game or contest cancelled because of COVID related issues is not considered a forfeit. It is considered a no-play, provided the contest has not started. For officials’ payment purposes, this is considered an act of God. Decisions to cancel games due to COVID-related issues should be made by the school administration in conjunction with the local health department.
- **Out-of-State Opponents:** Michigan schools are not prohibited from playing out-of-state opponents. When Michigan teams compete out of state, health and safety regulations in Michigan travel with them, including the masking requirement for the Michigan school, team limitations at an event (four teams), etc.
  - NOTE: Out-of-state teams that play in Michigan must also follow all of our health and safety requirements.

#### **Outside Team Gatherings:**

- Data suggests COVID-19 is not being spread during the school day, at athletic practices, or during games between teammates and opponents. However, we are learning that many activities loosely connected to schools and school sports are creating challenges for school districts. Events such as team dinners, gatherings at homes and restaurants following games, and other team-connected but non-athletic social events on

the weekends with little to no mitigation measures of face coverings and social distancing lead to outbreaks. **Coaches and schools should work to limit or eliminate these gatherings as much as possible to mitigate the spread of COVID.**

**Communication:**

- Clear and consistent communication among the school athletic director, the coaching staff, the players and their families is essential in minimizing the impact of COVID this season.
- Host schools should provide visiting school teams, officials, spectators, and media all pertinent game information prior to the contest, and all at the event are expected to comply with the host school strategies for COVID risk mitigation.
- Host schools should provide public address announcements to reinforce key site requirements and reminders of guidelines.
- Host schools should create a communication plan so that attendees can receive notification, if necessary, of any potential COVID exposure during an event.

**Streaming:**

- For the 2020-21 school year, the MHSAA has approved a waiver of the *MHSAA Handbook* regulation related to live video of regular-season and MHSAA tournament events. Participating schools should consider livestream options for spectators who cannot attend in person. Review and communicate streaming event details to all.



## **Officials Considerations for COVID-19 Boys Lacrosse Guidelines**

Included below are considerations for contest officials within the guidelines for returning to school sports. They have been developed in consultation with health professionals, government officials, the National Federation and officials from around the state of Michigan. They include general expectations for schools in relation to officials, provisions specific to officials in the sport, rules and mechanics modifications and protocols for when a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 is identified.

Officials are not responsible for monitoring activities on the sidelines, such as physical distancing, hand washing, symptoms of illnesses and other such issues. This monitoring remains the responsibility of the coaching staff and school personnel.

### **General Expectations for Schools**

- School athletic directors and officials should communicate with one another well in advance of the contest so that there is a clear understanding as to what is expected from each. Failure to discuss the details may create greater conflicts at the date/time of the contest.
- Officials should be provided a designated parking area apart from the general public.
- An adult host should meet the officials at a single, designated location and time for arrival. They should be escorted all together to a *private open and/or ventilated locker room or meeting area* before the start of the contest, to and from the contest during any intermissions and to the parking areas following the conclusion of the contest.
- Officials should be provided cold beverages either (1) in a sealed, disposable bottle or (2) in a newly washed, reusable bottle. Each shall be designated for a single official and should be marked to indicate to which official the beverage is assigned.
- If offered, snacks or meals provided to officials should be individually packaged separately for each official.
- It is recommended that officials' fees are paid using an electronic payment method.

### **Protocols for Suspected and Confirmed Cases of COVID-19**

#### **Suspected Cases at Contest**

- If an official becomes symptomatic at a contest, he or she should be moved to a designated quarantine area with a mask in place until they are transported from the facility. If the symptoms are severe, the official should be picked up by an emergency contact or by ambulance (if clinically unstable) for off-site testing. If an ambulance is called, or someone is being transported to the hospital, there should be an attempt to call the hospital first to alert them that the person may have COVID-19.

#### **Confirmed Cases**

- If an official has a laboratory positive or clinically diagnosed case of COVID-19, he or she should immediately contact the local health department for further instructions, and inform the athletic director(s) of any host school he or she visited within the previous two days before displaying COVID-19 symptoms.
- Officials must inform any host school for which they are scheduled to officiate for (at least) 14 days following confirmation that they are unable to work those contests. They will remain ineligible to officiate any MHSAA contests until they are medically cleared by their personal healthcare provider.

- All officials considered close contacts (*i.e.*, someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period) will be informed when a positive case of COVID-19 is identified from a contest they officiated within two days of when the infected individual first displayed symptoms. If identified as a close contact, an official should quarantine and must return assignments scheduled for the next 14 days.
- If an official was at the event, but not in close contact with a positive case, he or she should continue to be closely monitored for any symptoms of COVID-19. At this time, these individuals are not required to receive testing unless they develop COVID-19 symptoms.

### **Cancellations/Failure-to-Fulfills**

- Games that are cancelled because of COVID-19 are considered cancelled as a result of an act of God and are not subject to a 10-day minimum advanced notice by the school.
- Officials are not subject to a failure-to-fulfill penalty if they break a contract for an assignment when (1) they have been diagnosed with, or display symptoms of, COVID-19 or (2) if a confirmed case of COVID-19 has been identified with a team or facility which/where he or she is scheduled to officiate.

### **Officials' Sport-Specific Provisions**

It is incumbent of MHSAA officials to take necessary precautions to ensure a safe working/playing environment. This is especially important for those considered “vulnerable individuals” – people 65 years and older and others with serious underlying health conditions. Individual circumstances, proximity to others while officiating and overall risk level will determine for many the extent of precautions taken.

Provisions are listed in categories described below. As independent contractors, MHSAA officials have the ability to choose or decline assignments as they see fit. Likewise, because officials are hired by the schools, districts and their administrators may require additional precautions be taken by officials that work their contests beyond those mandated in this document. Officials should check with the schools as to any additional precautions or requirements before accepting an assignment and/or arriving to contest.

### **Provision Categories**

- Permitted** – Precautions and safety measures which officials are allowed to take during MHSAA contests. This list is not exhaustive and officials should contact the host school for guidance if they wish to take further precautions not listed in this document.
- Suggested** – Best practices for MHSAA officials based on the recommendations of health professionals. Not required, but should be followed if possible.
- Mandated** – Required practice in order to officiate MHSAA contests. If an official is unwilling or unable to follow these requirements, he or she is not permitted to officiate the contest.

**NOTE:** “Physical distancing” refers to a separation of individuals of at least six feet, except for momentary interactions.

### **Permitted Provisions:**

- Officials may use electronic whistles.

- Officials may wear gloves – including medical latex gloves, work gloves or gloves designed specifically for officiating.
- Officials may wear plastic face shields which connect to a hat, wrap around the forehead or that hang around the neck.

**Suggested Provisions:**

- Each official should check his/her temperature on game days. Officials displaying COVID-19 symptoms (*e.g., fever, cough or shortness of breath*), or with temperatures of 100.3F or greater, should stay home and consider coronavirus testing if symptoms persist.
- Officials should consider bringing their own marked beverage(s).
- Upon arrival at the site/facility and throughout the contest, officials should wash and sanitize their hands frequently.
- Officials should not share uniforms, towels, apparel or equipment.
- Cloth or surgical face coverings, which cover the mouth and nose are recommended for individuals that can wear them without significant impact upon breathing.
- Officials should sanitize their hands after inspecting any equipment and throughout the contest.
- Early in the season, it may be necessary to have a brief meeting with faceoff players, but officials should eliminate this practice later on during the year.

**Mandated Provisions:**

- Officials will arrange to arrive to the site/facility at a single location and time. Unless unavoidable, officials will enter the facility as a group, maintaining proper physical distancing.
- Officials' pregame meetings shall be conducted while practicing proper physical distancing.
- Officials shall not engage in pregame/postgame handshakes or fist bumps with players, coaches or administrators.
- The coin toss will be conducted with only one referee and a single captain from each team, maintaining physical distancing and without handshakes prior to and following the coin toss.
- Officials will not maintain the lineup. Coaches will relay that information to their players.
- Officials shall not physically contact players during the contest, including players that appear to be injured or ill.
- Officials will maintain physical distancing with each other unless conferencing about a call or ruling. In those cases, the officials should avoid speaking face-to-face.
- When providing an explanation of a ruling to a head coach, the referee will meet the coach near the sideline but on the field and away from others located on the sideline. One other official may be present, but physical distancing should be practiced by all involved.

## Rules Modifications (Boys Lacrosse)

- **SCORER'S TABLE (Rule 1-2-7)**
  - The scorer's table should be extended/large enough to provide adequate spacing for 6-foot social distancing between individuals. Minimize table personnel – official scorer and timekeeper only; visiting team personnel should be at their team bench and not at the table.
  
- **LINEUPS (Rule 1-2-7)**
  - The scorer's table should be extended/large enough to provide adequate spacing for 6-foot social distancing between
  
- **EQUIPMENT INSPECTION (Rules 4-27)**
  - Players will not directly hand officials sticks for inspection. Players will place the stick on the field and walk away, and the official will inspect the stick, and then alert the player to retrieve the stick and of the results of the stick check.
  - Effective January 2021, coaches must ensure that goalkeepers are to wear chest protectors designed for lacrosse that comply with the NOCSAE ND200 standard. There is no need to inspect this equipment. The pregame equipment certification by the head coach attesting all players are properly equipped will suffice.
  
- **COACHES' AND PLAYERS' BOXES (Rules 1-2-8, 1-2-9)**
  - Both the coaches' area and the players' area will be extended to the end line to ensure proper social distancing. Make sure this extended area is used for its intended purpose; teams must spread out on the sideline. Coaches using the extended box to abuse officials will not be tolerated.
  
- **FACE MASKS (Rules 1-9)**
  - All players are required to wear a face covering at all times during competition.
    - Surgical masks, traditional cloth/fabric masks, and gaiters are allowed and acceptable face coverings under the face covering requirement, provided the face coverings are unaltered as produced by the manufacturer in the nose and/or mouth area, and completely cover the nose and mouth.
    - Clear, molded, and non-rigid face shields designed to attach to the helmet and approved by the helmet manufacturer, such as the products by Cascade, Schutte, and Tektor, are acceptable. Cloth face shield products that are designed to attach to the face mask, such as the product by Helmet Barrier, are also acceptable.
    - It is recommended *but not required* that cloth face coverings be worn in addition to plastic helmet shields.
  - All players taking a faceoff will be required to wear two layers of face covering during the faceoff, and one layer must be a tightly woven cloth or other multi-layer absorbent material mask (e.g., traditional cloth mask, surgical mask, etc.) that closely and completely covers an individual's mouth and nose, and the portions that cover the nose and mouth unaltered as produced by the manufacturer. The second layer may be a second cloth mask, a non-rigid plastic face shield covering the mouth and nose designed to attached to the helmet, or a cloth face shield covering the mouth and nose designed to attached to the helmet. A faceoff player may remove one of the two required face coverings when they de-part from the field of play or at a stoppage of play by the officials
  - Players that do not comply with the face covering requirements are subject to removal. See [Face Coverings and Contest Officials](#) for further guidance.



Updated 3/15/21

- **FACEOFF MECHANIC (Rule 4-3-3)**

- Faceoffs Procedure – Officials should conduct quick and efficient faceoffs. In an effort to limit contact with shared equipment and allow officials to maintain 6 feet of physical distance from players as much as possible, players will be responsible for all ball handling and placing the ball on faceoffs.
  - a. Following a goal, the defensive team that was just scored on will be responsible for retrieving the ball from their own goal, and then placing the ball for the faceoff. A player puts the ball on the faceoff X and the official will give verbal instructions on any adjustments that need to be made regarding the placement of the ball.
  - b. Official will instruct the players to go Down for the faceoff.
  - c. Official will give quick instructions to make sure players are correctly aligned.
  - d. Once both players are aligned, the official will give the Set command and then blow the whistle to start play. Once the whistle is blown and the faceoff is initiated, the aim will be to make sure

the ball is out quickly. If the ball is not out quickly, the official shall stop play and award the ball following a technical foul for withholding (i.e., if a player's cross is clamped down on the ball, resulting in a scrum) – or, if there is no technical foul, the ball will be awarded by alternate position.

## **Preparing for When Someone Gets Sick**

### **Precautionary Measures (in addition to other protocols and precautions)**

- Anyone attending or participating in an MHSAA regular season or tournament event should check his/her temperature before arriving. Spectators, participants or personnel displaying COVID-19 symptoms (e.g., *fever, cough or shortness of breath*), or with temperatures of 100.3°F or greater, should stay home and consider coronavirus testing if symptoms persist.
- Prior to participation, the COVID-19 athlete/coach monitoring form should be used, which includes five questions plus a temperature check. **NOTE: Athletic directors should consider requiring similar precautions for game officials.**

### **Protocol for Suspected Cases of COVID-19**

- All schools should have an emergency action plan in place for each site. If a student, coach or official is or becomes sick on site with symptoms of COVID-19, they should be placed in a clearly identified and designated quarantine area with a mask in place until they can be picked up. Staff who are identified to care for students must wear a mask.
- A symptomatic student should be sent home with a parent or designated adult until they have tested negative or have been released from isolation according to the local health department's protocols.
- Students, coaches, and/or officials should be transported by their parent or guardian, emergency contact or ambulance (if clinically unstable) for off-site testing. If an ambulance is called, or someone is being brought to the hospital, there should be an attempt to call the hospital first to alert them that the person may have COVID-19. If a student, coach or official becomes sick, they must not use group transportation to return home.

### **Protocol for Positive Cases of COVID-19**

- The local health department should be contacted by the school for further direction. They likely will initiate contact tracing, following regular public health practices.
- All schools, public and private, must cooperate with the local public health department if a confirmed case of COVID-19 is identified, and collect the contact information for any close contacts (*i.e., someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period*) starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to test specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated. Close contacts should stay at home for up to 14 days after last contact with a person who has COVID-19. Follow the recommendations of the local health department. Options they may consider include stopping quarantine after day 10 without testing and after day 7 after receiving a negative test.
- Administrators of the schools involved, as well as students/families/officials in attendance, should be notified of the presence of any laboratory positive or clinically diagnosed cases of COVID-19 so there continues to be awareness and close observation of any symptoms. **NOTE: Student communicable disease related information is protected health information. The individual with COVID-19 should not be identified by name to non-family or non-health department officials. Even if a family/student acknowledges and publicly discloses a positive test, school staff and officials must not participate in discussion or acknowledgement of a positive test by identifying a specific student.**
- Students, coaches or officials who were at the event, but not in close contact with a positive case, should continue to be closely monitored for any symptoms of COVID-19. At this time, these individuals are not required to receive testing unless they develop COVID-19 symptoms.
- Areas that were used by the sick person should be closed off and should not be used until after cleaning and disinfecting them (this includes surfaces or shared objects in the area). If possible, cleaning and disinfecting of the area should not occur until at least 24 hours has elapsed. If 24 hours is not feasible, as much time possible should be allowed to pass before cleaning or disinfection occurs.

