



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

***This document was updated on May 15, 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 **May 15, 2021** order issued by Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) states that masks are no longer required for any outdoor activity. Individuals may opt to wear a face mask but there is no longer a requirement that face masks be worn outdoors by any player, coach, team personnel, official or spectators. Contact sport athletes in boys lacrosse, girls lacrosse and girls soccer are no longer required to wear a face mask while participating.

**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 are not required to wear face masks but may opt to do so at outdoor events. Proper physical distancing should be practiced.
- 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.
- Schools should restrict spectators on both sides of the gym from sitting in the first two rows of bleachers closest to the gymnasium floor to allow for adequate spacing between the spectators and contest participants, 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 are not required to wear face masks but may opt to do so at outdoor events. Proper physical distancing should be practiced.
- Provide and review NFHS Playing Rule modifications with players and parents.

### **Spectators**

- Spectators are not required to wear face masks but may opt to do so at outdoor events. Proper physical distancing should be practiced.
- Entrance and exit protocols and posted signs by host management must be obeyed.

### **Media Personnel**

- Media are not required to wear face masks but may opt to do so at outdoor events. Proper physical distancing should be practiced.
- 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.



Revisions from a previous document will be date stamped and highlighted in yellow.

SPORT: Girls (L.P.) & Boys (U.P.) Tennis
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: Dan Hutcheson

Considering all recommendations by the MISafeSchools Return to School Roadmap, MHSAA Re-Opening Guidelines and the SMAC guidelines, the following are the specific guidelines for Tennis:

The MHSAA/NFHS Guidance For Re-Opening School Sports lists Tennis as a moderate risk sport.

Sports 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 OR sports that use equipment that can't be cleaned between participants. Tennis could potentially be considered "Lower Risk" with appropriate cleaning of equipment and use of face coverings by participants.

This document will provide sport-specific guidance for Tennis

- Page 1: Overview & Equipment and Facility Considerations
Page 2: Return to Play Progression
Page 3: NFHS Playing Rule Modifications
Page 4: General Guidelines for Non-Athletes

Special Equipment and Facility Considerations for Tennis

Table with 2 columns: Sports Equipment and Facility. Lists items like Tennis balls, racquets, nets, score keeping devices, personal bags, tennis courts, bleachers, and bathrooms.

## **RETURN TO PLAY PROGRESSION**

### ***MHSAA STEP 2, aligns with MI SAFE START Phase 4 (tennis practices permitted)***

- Coaches are encouraged to conduct workouts in “pods” of students with the same 5-10 (includes coaches and participants) always working out together.
- Hand sanitizer should be plentiful at all contests and practices.

### ***MHSAA STEP 3, aligns with MI SAFE START PLAN Phase 5 (tennis practices and competitions permitted)***

- Handshakes/high-fives/fist bumps between competitors, doubles partners, athletes and coaches, coaches or coaches and tournament management are allowed, but not encouraged.
- Coaches are encouraged to communicate in advance (pre-match instructions).
- Team huddles are allowed, but not encouraged.
- Team food tables are allowed but not encouraged. Food should be packaged individually for participants.
- Players are encouraged to use hand sanitizer before entering and when exiting the court.
- Coaches are encouraged to wear face coverings when communicating with competitors during breaks in the match as well as off court.
- If passing a player from another court while switching sides, both players are encouraged to maintain social distancing guidelines.
- When updating the scoring device, one player should be designated prior to the match, and should be the only person to touch said device. At the conclusion of the match, this scoring device may be sanitized before the next match utilizes it.
- When returning balls to an adjacent court, players are encouraged to use their racquet only
- Each team is responsible for its own hand sanitizer and its own med kit.
- Hydration stations may be utilized but should be cleaned after every practice or competition.



## 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 100.3F 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., individuals less than six feet apart for more than 15 minutes*) of the infected individual from two days before he or she showed symptoms to the time when he or she was last at the event. Close contacts should be quarantined for 14 days at home. Local health officials may identify other contacts who require quarantine.
- 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.

**COVID-19 Athlete/Coach Monitoring Form** DATE: \_\_\_\_\_



Name	Time	Circle Yes/No below										Temp (if higher than 100.3°F)
		Fever		Cough		Sore Throat		Shortness of Breath		Close contact, or cared for someone with COVID-19		
		Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
		Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
		Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
		Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
		Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
		Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
		Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
		Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
		Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
		Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
		Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
		Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	