

First Amended Order and Athletics and Performing Arts Guidance

Frequently Asked Questions

Last Updated: January 18, 2022

1) Do these two items from the last Spring Sports season apply right now in order to NOT have to test?

A) The student tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 90 days.

Students who have recovered after having a laboratory-confirmed (PCR or antigen, NOT antibody test) diagnosis within the past three months and remain symptom-free may participate in practice, competition, or performance without a mask and without testing if they provide proof of diagnosis (test result- proof of + covid PCR or rapid test).

B) The student shows proof of vaccination.

Due to increased risk of breakthrough infection related to Delta variant, vaccinated students must participate in the testing program to be exempted from masking during performance, competition, or practice.

2) If students or game officials choose NOT to test, can they participate in full, WITH A MASK ON?

Yes.

3) What about mask exempted students? Are they still required to test?

Yes. Students are still required to test.

4) The band has pretty much been practicing and performing with masks and without testing requirements. Does this amendment mean that band students are now to begin testing?

For outdoor band class or performance where masking has not been required, you should continue the protocols in place before this amended order. Any indoor performing arts practice or performance now may mask or test per the First Revised Order.

5) What should our expectation or requirement be of schools outside of our county coming to participate in an event. Example – an away team comes to home team to play girls basketball. Are we to required away team members to test upon arrival?

No, this is not required but you could if you have the resources. They can be informed of the mandate and asked to comply, but schools are not expected to oversee visitors testing.

6) Does this apply to all ages? Meaning, most schools offer elementary boys & girls basketball seasons. Are we to test them in or to unmask while in active participation as well?

Yes, test or mask for all ages.

7) For spring sports, there was a parental consent form for testing. Will there be a form required? And, if so, are we able to just use the form that we are currently using to test students who opt to remain in school rather than quarantine?

There is no separate form – use what you are currently using for any type of student testing.

8) Are we testing vaccinated students?

Due to increased risk of breakthrough infection related to Delta variant, vaccinated students must participate in the testing program to be exempted from masking during performance, competition, or practice.

9) Are we testing students who have had COVID in the last 90 days?

Students who have recovered after having a laboratory-confirmed (PCR or antigen, NOT antibody test) diagnosis within the past three months and remain symptom-free may participate in practice, competition, or performance without a mask and without testing if they provide proof of diagnosis (test result- proof of + covid PCR or rapid test).

10) Are we testing students on the ski team since they are outside and away from others?

Outdoor sports are not included in the Original Order and therefore should be treated just like fall sports. Outdoor sports are subsequently not included in the Amended Order.

11) Can we test coaches so they would not have to wear masks while actively coaching on the sidelines? Many of coaches put multiple miles in each game.

If their activity meets the definition of “actively engaged in practice or competition” (i.e. basketball coach running up and down along the sidelines, hockey coach actively skating with team during practice) they can unmask if participating in testing program).

12) What is the end game here? We have high vaccination rates in many of our counties. What is the magic number where this stops? When do we live with this?

We understand the fatigue and concern for the future – we feel it too. However, despite the high vaccination rates in our area, the state, region, and counties remain in a high transmission level along and our hospital systems are very strained. Younger kids now being eligible for vaccination, boosters being widely administered, and additional therapeutic treatments on the horizon are all great signs for improved control of COVID-19 in the future. This also allows us to begin looking at next steps for phasing out of health department orders and restrictions, and shifting the focus towards support and guidance for the communities, schools, and businesses in navigating risk and preventative/protective measures in the future.

13) Do students participating in youth sports that are unrelated to school but held in our school building need to follow masking or testing guidance?

Masking and testing requirements for athletics from the Amended Order are for school sanctioned events only. If a school sports team has a game at an off-site or game off the school campus, they must abide by the masking and testing requirements. If a non-school sanctioned sports team has a game on the school campus they are not required to follow the masking and testing requirements.

14) How do we manage an outbreak among students in athletics or in the performing arts programs?

If an outbreak is identified in an athletic or performing arts group of students:

1. Isolate positive individuals for a strict 10-day isolation OR test on day 6 prior to return to school.
 - a. If the day 6 test is positive, the individual returns to isolation through day 10
 - b. If the day 6 test is negative, the individual can return to school/activities with strict masking, except during active play per [Public Health Order](#).
2. For all other team members, recommend increasing weekly testing to every other day, or a minimum of 2 times per week during outbreak.

Resources:

[MDHHS K-12 School Opening Guidance](#)

[MDHHS Rapid Antigen Testing Training Series](#)

[MDHHS COVID-19 Information and Resources for Athletics.](#)

[CDC Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools](#) Updated 11/5/2021