



## **DIOCESAN RECREATION ASSOCIATION**

**197 E. GAY ST.**

**COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215**

September 22, 2021

Dear Pastors, Principals, and Athletic Directors:

At the beginning of this season, we provided guidance that if a player on any team had symptoms/tested positive for COVID within 48 hours of a practice or game, the entire team would have to quarantine. Before games even started, we had several teams that had to quarantine due to this guidance.

This obviously created an issue as every team had the potential to be quarantined multiple times during the season, especially the teams with children under the age of 12 who cannot yet be vaccinated. After consulting with health professionals, athletic directors, and other key individuals, it was decided that modified guidelines could be implemented for fall sports.

Beginning Monday, September 27, these are the guidelines that must be followed for all DRA sports:

- Players & coaches must be masked and distanced (6 feet if possible, if not then at least 3 feet) while on the sidelines, regardless of vaccination status.
- Players may remove their masks while on the field/court and actively practicing or playing a game.
- Coaches will provide hand sanitizers on the side lines and players should sanitize their hands before going on the field/court as well as coming off.
- While in any diocesan gym, spectators should wear masks regardless of vaccination status
- Limiting of hand-shakes and instead encouraging fist bumps and waves

If all of these guidelines are followed, the entire team will NOT have to quarantine. Instead, targeted contact tracing will be performed and only those with close contact outside the practice/game (carpools, play dates, sleepovers, sharing meals, etc.) will need to quarantine. This will be traced back 48 hours from when the child's symptoms began or when they tested positive for COVID, whichever comes first.

It is incredibly important that all of these guidelines be followed to give our kids the best chance to have a season and remain in school for in-person learning. It is also important that all parents be honest about your child's contact with children outside of practices and games. If at any point it appears that there is spread throughout a team and it cannot be traced back to contact outside practices and games, it is highly likely that the entire team will be quarantined.

Please note that in any of these circumstances, if a child is fully vaccinated against COVID (it has been 2 weeks since the last shot in their vaccination series), they will NOT need to quarantine.

These guidelines are only for fall sports and are subject to change. COVID-19 is a highly infectious disease. Because of this high contagious nature, it is difficult to control the spread of COVID or to determine whether, where, or how a person may have been exposed to the disease. While we are putting in place safety rules and precautions to mitigate the spread, these precautions may or may not be effective. By attending these practices and games, parents are voluntarily assuming the risk that they, their child, or anyone in attendance may be exposed to or infected by COVID.

By putting in place these prevention measures, the student-athlete is eligible for modified quarantine. The student athlete may attend school and school related activities as long as they have no symptoms.

If the student athlete is experiencing symptoms according to this list, please contact the school nurse:

- Fever 100.0 F or greater.
- New or worsened cough
- Shortness of breath
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste and/or smell
- Diarrhea/Nausea/Vomiting
- Headache
- Congestion/runny nose
- Fatigue
- Body Aches

We strongly encourage testing the student athlete on day 5 after exposure or later.

Many of the athletic directors have asked for a consistent COVID notification process. Please see below for this information

### **COVID Notification Procedures for DRA sports teams**

A child tests positive for COVID

Coach is notified

Coach Notifies AD

AD will notify principal and nurse

Principal notifies pastor

AD working with the coach notifies parents on the team

AD notifies DRA Commissioners Marty Raines and Julius Palazzo

DRA will notify officials if applicable

DRA will notify Opponents if applicable

All parties will follow guidance from the nurse, principal and local health department regarding quarantining and continuation of practices and games.

Thank you for being part of the Diocesan Recreation Association. We appreciate your patience as we continue to work through these constantly changing and challenging times.

Sincerely,

Marty Raines  
Director of Diocesan Recreation Association