



PK-12 Athletics Health and Safety Plan

The decision to resume sports-related activities, including conditioning, practices and games, is within the discretion of a school entity's governing body. Each school entity must develop and adopt an Athletics Health and Safety Plan aligning to the PDE Preliminary Guidance for Phased Reopening of Pre-K to 12 Schools prior to conducting sports-related activities with students. The plan must include the provisions of this guidance, be approved by the local governing body of the school entity, and be posted on the school entity's publicly available website. School entities should also consider whether the implementation of the plan requires the adoption of a new policy or revision of an existing policy.

Each school entity should continue to monitor its Athletics Health and Safety Plan throughout the year and update as needed. All revisions should be reviewed and approved by the governing body prior to posting on the school entity's public website.

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Athletics Health and Safety Plan: North East School District

All decision-makers should be mindful that as long as there are cases of COVID-19 in the community, there are no strategies that completely eliminate transmission risk within a school population. The goal is to keep transmission as low as possible to safely continue school activities. All school activities must be informed by [Governor Wolf's Process to Reopen Pennsylvania](#). The administration has categorized reopening into three broad phases: red, yellow, or green. These designations signal how counties and/or regions may begin easing some restrictions on school, work, congregate settings, and social interactions:

- Red Phase: Schools remain closed for in-person instruction and no sports are allowed in counties designated as being in the Red Phase.
- Yellow Phase and Green Phase: Schools may resume sports-related activities after developing a written Athletics Health and Safety Plan, to be approved by the local governing body (e.g. board of directors/trustees) and posted on the school entity's publicly available website.

Use this template to document your LEA's plan to bring back student athletes and coaching staff, how you will communicate the type with stakeholders in your community, and the process for continued monitoring of local health data to assess implications for school sports-related activity operations and potential adjustments throughout the school year.

Your school entity should account for changing conditions in your local Athletics Health and Safety Plan to ensure seamless transition from more to less restrictive conditions in each of the phase requirements as needed. Depending upon the public health conditions in any county within the Commonwealth, there could be additional actions, orders, or guidance provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) and/or the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) designating the county as being in the red, yellow, or green phase. Some counties may not experience a straight path from a red designation, to a yellow, and then a green designation. Instead, cycling back and forth between less restrictive to more restrictive designations may occur as public health indicators improve or worsen.

Resuming PK-12 Sports-Related Activities

Key Questions

- How do you plan to bring student athletes and staff back to physical school buildings, particularly if social distancing is still required?
- How did you engage stakeholders in the decision to resume sports-related activities, including try-outs, conditioning, practices, and games?
- How will you communicate your plan to your local sports and school communities?
- Once you resume sports-related activities, what will the decision-making process look like to prompt a school closure or other significant modification to sports activities?

Anticipated launch date for sports related activities: July 1, 2020

INTRODUCTION

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented athletics across the world with a myriad of challenges. The COVID-19 virus is a highly contagious illness that primarily attacks the upper respiratory system. The virus that causes COVID-19 can infect people of all ages. Research from the Centers for Disease Control, among others, has found that while children do get infected by COVID-19, relatively few children with COVID-19 are hospitalized. However, some severe outcomes have been reported in children, and a child with a mild or even asymptomatic case of COVID-19 can spread the infection to others who may be far more vulnerable. While it is not possible to eliminate all risk of furthering the spread of COVID-19, the current science suggests there are many steps schools can take to reduce the risks to students, coaches, and their families.

The NESD will take the necessary precautions and recommendations from the federal, state, and local governments, CDC, PA DOH, as well as the NFHS and PIAA. The NESD realizes the knowledge regarding COVID-19 is constantly changing as new information and treatments become available. These recommendations will be adjusted as needed as new information becomes available in order to decrease the risk of exposure for our staff, students, and spectators.

RESUMPTION OF ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES

Recommendations for **ALL LEVELS** for Junior and Senior High Athletics

1. Athletes, Coaches, and Staff will undergo a COVID-19 health screening prior to any practice, event, or team meeting. The type of screening will be dependent upon the available resources and the Phase level. The purpose is to check for signs and symptoms of COVID-19. Non-touch temporal scan of a temperature higher than 99.5.
2. Promote healthy hygiene practices such as hand washing (20 seconds with warm water and soap) and employees wearing a cloth face covering as feasible. (Face coverings are recommended to help decrease potential exposure to COVID-19 respiratory droplets by an infected individual. Face Coverings will not be used for athletes while practicing or competing.) Hand Sanitizer will be available for team use as resources allow.
3. Intensify cleaning, disinfection, and ventilation in all facilities
4. Encourage social distancing through increased spacing, small groups, and limited mixing between groups, if feasible
5. Educate Athletes, Coaches, and Staff on health and safety protocols

6. Anyone who is sick must stay home
7. Plan in place if a student or employee gets sick
8. Regularly communicate and monitor developments with local authorities, employees, and families regarding cases, exposures, and updates to policies and procedures
9. Athletes and Coaches MUST provide their own water bottle for hydration. Water bottles must not be shared.
10. PPE (gloves, masks, eye protection) will be used as needed and situations warrant, or determined by local/state governments.
11. Identify Staff and students who may be at a higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19 due to underlying medical conditions. (See - CDC “People Who are at a Higher Risk for Severe Illness”)

CLASSIFICATION OF SPORTS

High Risk: Sports that involve close, sustained contact between participants, lack of significant protective barriers, and high probability that respiratory particles will be transmitted between participants. Examples: football, wrestling, cheerleading (stunts), dance

Moderate Risk: 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 that use equipment that can't be cleaned between participants. Examples: basketball, volleyball, baseball, softball, soccer, ice hockey, tennis, pole vault, high jump, long jump, 7 on 7 football

Low Risk: Sports that can be done with social distancing or individually with no sharing of equipment or the ability to clean the equipment between uses by competitors. Examples: running events, cross country, throwing events, swimming, golf, weightlifting, sideline cheer.

High/Moderate Risk Sports may move to a Low risk category with non-contact modifications. Team Activities should be limited to individual skill development drills that maintain social distancing.

ENGAGING STAKEHOLDERS

The School District will engage stakeholders by reviewing the Athletic Health and Safety Plan at a public Board meeting. In addition, the Plan will be provided to the local newspaper for publication and placed on the School District website.

COMMUNICATION OF PLANS

The Summary of the Athletic Health and Safety Plan will be posted on the School District website for easy access for the School District community.

SCHOOL CLOSURE PLAN

The Superintendent will follow all Guidance from the Governor and PDE regarding school closure, with communication with the Board and local health officials. The Superintendent will modify athletic activities when necessary based upon a series of positive tests.

Primary Point of Contact

Each school entity must designate a primary point of contact with defined roles and responsibilities for health and safety preparedness and response planning for sports-related activities. The point of contact will be responsible for responding to questions related to COVID-19 safety protocols. All parents, student athletes, officials, and coaches must be provided the person’s contact information.

Point of Contact Name	Position of Point of Contact	Contact Information
Mr. Pat Fordyce	Athletic Director	814-725-8671, ext. 1500
Dr. Bill Renne	HS Principal	814-725-8671, ext. 1001
Dr. Steve Karns	MS Principal	814-725-8671, ext. 2002
Dr. Michele Hartzell	Superintendent	814-725-8671, ext. 3907

Key Strategies, Policies, and Procedures

Use the action plan templates on the following pages to create a thorough plan for each of the requirements outlined in the [Pennsylvania Guidance for All Sports Permitted to Operate During the COVID-19 Disaster Emergency](#).

For each domain of the Athletics Health and Safety Plan, draft a detailed summary describing the key strategies, policies, and procedures your LEA will employ to satisfy the requirements of the domain. The domain summary will serve as the public-facing description of the efforts your LEA will take to ensure health and safety of every stakeholder in your local education community. Thus, the summary should be focused on the key information that staff, students, and families will require to clearly understand your local plan for the phased reopening of schools. Use the key questions to guide your domain summaries.

For each requirement within each domain, document the following:

- **Action Steps under Yellow and Green Phase:** Identify the discrete action steps required to prepare for and implement the requirement under the guidelines outlined for counties in yellow or green. List the discrete action steps for each requirement in sequential order.

- **Lead Individual(s) and Position(s):** List each person responsible for ensuring the action steps are fully planned and the system is prepared for effective implementation.
- **Materials, Resources, and/or Supports Needed:** List any materials, resources, or supports required to implement the requirement.
- **Professional Development (PD) Required:** Identify the training or professional development that will be provided to staff, students, families, and other stakeholders to implement each requirement effectively.

In the following tables, an asterisk (*) denotes a mandatory element of the plan. All other requirements are highly encouraged to the extent possible.

Cleaning, Sanitizing, Disinfecting, and Ventilation

Key Questions

- How will you ensure the athletic facilities are cleaned and ready to safely welcome coaching staff and student athletes?
- How often will you implement cleaning, sanitation, disinfecting, and ventilation protocols/procedures to maintain coaching staff and student athlete safety?
- What protocols will you put in place to clean and disinfect throughout the day?
- Which stakeholders will be trained on cleaning, sanitizing, disinfecting, and ventilation protocols? When and how will the training be provided? How will preparedness to implement as a result of the training be measured?

Summary of Responses to Key Questions:

Requirements	Action Steps under Yellow and Green Phase	Lead Individual and Position	Materials, Resources, and/or Supports Needed	PD Required (Y/N)
*Cleaning, sanitizing, disinfecting, and ventilating spaces, surfaces, and any other areas used by student athletes and sporting activities (i.e., restrooms, drinking fountains, locker rooms and transportation)	<p><u>Yellow Phase</u></p> <p>Adequate cleaning schedules should be created and implemented for all athletic facilities to mitigate any communicable disease</p> <p>Athletic Facilities should be cleaned prior to arrival and post workouts and team gatherings. High touch areas should be cleaned more often</p> <p>Weight room remains closed under PA yellow.</p> <p>Appropriate clothing/shoes should be worn at all times in the weight room to minimize sweat from transmitting onto equipment surfaces</p> <p><u>Green Phase</u></p>	Mr. Bill Wingerter Director of Grounds and Maintenance	Cleaning supplies recommended by the CDC, PA and Erie County DOH for appropriate disinfecting of athletic areas.	Y, Training on appropriate COVID-19 cleaning techniques re: CDC and DOH guidance

	<p>Adequate cleaning schedules should be created and implemented for all athletic facilities to mitigate any communicable disease</p> <p>Athletic Facilities should be cleaned prior to arrival and post workouts and team gatherings, high touch areas should be cleaned more often</p> <p>Weight Room Equipment should be wiped down after each individual's use</p> <p>Appropriate clothing/shoes should be worn at all times in the weight room to minimize sweat from transmitting onto equipment surfaces</p>			
Other cleaning, sanitizing, disinfecting, and ventilations practices	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Social Distancing and Other Safety Protocols

Key Questions

- How will conditioning, practice, and game spaces be organized and scheduled to mitigate spread?
- How will you group student athletes with coaches to limit the number of individuals who come into contact with one another throughout the conditioning, practices, meetings, team meals, games, etc.?
- What policies and procedures will govern use of other communal spaces (locker rooms, restrooms)?
- How will you utilize outdoor space to meet social distancing requirements?
- What hygiene routines will be implemented?
- How will you adjust student transportation to meet social distancing requirements?
- How will social distancing and other safety protocols vary based on age ranges?
- Which stakeholders will be trained on social distancing and other safety protocols? When and how will the training be provided?

Summary of Responses to Key Questions:

Requirements	Action Steps under Yellow and Green Phase	Lead Individual and Position	Materials, Resources, and/or Supports Needed	PD Required (Y/N)
*Protocols for social distancing student athletes and staff throughout all activities, to the extent feasible	<p><u>Yellow and Green Phase</u></p> <p>Lower risk sports practices may begin.</p> <p>Modified practices may begin for Moderate and High risk sports (practices must remain non-contact and include social distancing where applicable, activity should focus on individual skill development)</p> <p>Sidelines/Bench – appropriate social distancing will need to be maintained on sidelines/bench during contests and events, as deemed necessary by the school, PIAA, state and local governments. Consider using</p>	<p>Pat Fordyce Athletic Director</p> <p>Tom Pyle Assistant AD</p>	None	Y, Training of coaches on appropriate social distancing behaviors from CDC and Department of Health

	tape or paint as a guide for students and coaches.			
*Procedures for serving food at events	<u>Yellow and Green Phase</u> In the event that concession stands will serve food during Yellow or Green Phase, they will adhere to the Guidance for Businesses in the Restaurant Industry issued by Governor Wolf, as amended.	Pat Fordyce, Athletic Director Tom Pyle Assistant AD	Glass dividers between the concession workers and customers, additional gloves and cleaning supplies.	Y, Training for the food service workers on COVID-19 food safety techniques.
*Hygiene practices for student athletes and staff which include the manner and frequency of hand-washing and other best practices	<u>Yellow and Green Phase</u> Hand Sanitizer should be used periodically as resources allow	Pat Fordyce Athletic Director Tom Pyle Assistant AD	Hand Sanitizer	N
*Posting signs, in highly visible locations, that promote everyday protective measures, and how to stop the spread of germs	<u>Yellow and Green Phase</u> Signs shall be posed in visible locations around the School District informing all attendees of appropriate sanitization procedures for combatting COVID-19. Signage will be posted throughout facilities to remind spectators of safety measures such as the use of masks and maintaining 6 feet of social distancing.	Dr. Ritter, Principal Bill Wingerter, Maintenance Supervisor	CDC and PA DOH Signage	N
*Identifying and restricting non-essential visitors and volunteers	<u>Yellow Phase</u> Limitation on gathering of no more than 25 individuals per group, shall be limited to athletes, officials, medical staff, coaches, and necessary relatives of athletes <u>Green Phase</u> Limitation on gathering with attendance limited to athletes, officials, coaches, necessary relatives of athletes. Spectators, vendors, and media permitted. Spectators will be limited based on seating capacity that	Pat Fordyce Athletic Director Tom Pyle Assistant AD Dr. Karns, Principal	None	N

	will still enable social distancing and mask rules requirements that are still in effect.			
Limiting the sharing of materials and equipment among student athletes	<p><u>Yellow Phase and Green Phase</u></p> <p>Students should refrain from sharing clothing/towels and those items should be washed after each practice, including practice jerseys.</p> <p>Athletic equipment that may be used by multiple individuals (balls, shields, tackling dummies, shot put, discus, pole vault, etc.) should be cleaned intermittently during practice and events as deemed necessary.</p> <p>Hand Sanitizer should be used periodically as resources allow</p> <p>Students MUST bring their own water bottle. Water bottles must not be shared.</p> <p>Hydration stations (water coolers, water fountains, water cows, water troughs, etc.) should not be utilized</p>	<p>Pat Fordyce Athletic Director</p> <p>Head Coach</p>	Additional athletic equipment, including practice jerseys, sport-specific equipment, water bottles, etc.	N
Staggering the use of communal spaces (i.e., locker rooms, weight rooms, etc.)	<p><u>Yellow Phase</u></p> <p>Weight room will remain closed during Yellow Phase.</p> <p>Use of athletic facilities will be limited to one sport at a time.</p> <p>Distance will be kept between specific groups on teams (Offensive line, skill players, special teams) on different areas of the field to maintain social distancing.</p> <p><u>Green Phase</u></p>	<p>Pat Fordyce Athletic Director</p> <p>Head Coach</p>	None	N

	Weight room open with limitation on number of individuals permitted at a time.			
Adjusting transportation schedules and practices to create social distance	<p><u>Yellow and Green Phase</u></p> <p>Practices will be staggered between sports to maximize social distancing for athletic teams.</p> <p>Modifications for student/coach transportation to and from athletic events will be necessary. This will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing the number of students/coaches on a bus/van • Using hand sanitizer upon boarding a bus/van • Social distancing on a bus • Wearing masks on bus 	<p>Patty Schultz, Transportation Supervisor</p> <p>Pat Fordyce Athletic Director</p> <p>Tom Pyle Assistant AD</p>	Additional buses for transportation to athletic events, additional hotel rooms to prevent crowding.	N
Limiting the number of individuals in athletic activity spaces, and interactions between groups of student athletes	<p><u>Yellow and Green Phase</u></p> <p>Only necessary staff will be permitted at athletic facilities during practice, no commingling of student athletes from different sports will be permitted.</p> <p>Athletes will be encouraged to social distance while not directly participating in an athletic practice or game.</p>	<p>Pat Fordyce Athletic Director</p> <p>Tom Pyle Assistant AD</p> <p>Head Coach</p> <p>Dr. Karns Principal</p>	None	N
Other social distancing and safety practices	<p><u>Yellow and Green Phase</u></p> <p>Masks will be required by spectators at all times during NESD athletic events. Spectators will complete COVID 19 pre-screening questions prior to entrance into NESD athletic events. Spectator attendance will be documented at each NESD athletic event.</p>	N/A	N/A	N/A

Monitoring Student Athletes and Staff Health

Key Questions

- How will you monitor student athletes, coaches, and others who interact with each other to ensure they are healthy and not exhibiting signs of illness?
- Who will be responsible for monitoring?
- Where will the monitoring take place?
- When and how frequently will the monitoring take place?
- What is the policy for quarantine or isolation if a coach, student athlete, or other member of the school community becomes ill or has been exposed to an individual confirmed positive for COVID-19? What conditions will a coach or student athlete confirmed to have COVID-19 need to meet to safely return to sports activities? Which staff will be responsible for making decisions regarding quarantine or isolation requirements of coaches or student athletes?
- When and how will families be notified of confirmed coach or student athlete illness or exposure and resulting changes to the local Athletics Health and Safety Plan?
- Which stakeholders will be trained on protocols for monitoring student athlete and staff health? When and how will the training be provided?

Summary of Responses to Key Questions:

Requirements	Action Steps under Yellow and Green Phase	Lead Individual and Position	Materials, Resources, and/or Supports Needed	PD Required (Y/N)
*Monitoring student athletes and staff for symptoms and history of exposure	<u>Yellow Phase</u> All coaches and students will be screened for signs/symptoms of	Pat Fordyce Athletic Director Dr. Steve Karns	Temperature check devices, questionnaire forms	Y, training on appropriate temperature

	<p>COVID-19 prior to a workout. The screenings will range from a verbal/written questionnaire to a temperature check.</p> <p>Responses to screening questions for each person will be recorded and stored so that there is a record of everyone present in case a student develops COVID-19</p> <p>Any person with positive symptoms reported will not be allowed to take part in workouts and should contact his or her primary care provider or other appropriate health-care professional. A clearance (A PIAA clearance form may be required to return to play)</p> <p><u>Green Phase</u></p> <p>Any person who has COVID-19 symptoms will not be allowed to participate in practice/games, and will contact their primary care physician or another appropriate health-care provider. A clearance will be required to return to play.</p> <p>Questionnaire and Temperature Checks will continue as per State and Local government recommendations</p> <p>Team attendance will be recorded</p>	<p>Principal</p> <p>Dr. Michele Hartzell Superintendent</p>	<p>regarding COVID-19 symptoms</p>	<p>check measures</p>
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<p>*Isolating or quarantining student athletes, coaching staff, or visitors if they become sick or demonstrate a history of exposure</p>	<p><u>Yellow and Green Phase</u></p> <p>Every effort will be made to isolate the ill individual from others, until the student or staff member can leave the school or event</p> <p>If the individual is a student, parent/guardian will be contacted immediately, and arrangements will be made for the student to be picked up</p> <p>Ill individual will be asked to contact their physician or appropriate healthcare professional for direction</p>	<p>Dr. Steve Karns Principal</p> <p>Pat Fordyce Athletic Director</p> <p>Dr. Michele Hartzell Superintendent</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>N</p>
<p>*Returning isolated or quarantined coaches, staff or student athletes, to school and/or athletics</p>	<p><u>Yellow and Green Phase</u></p> <p>Student or staff should have medical clearance from their physician or appropriate healthcare professional, determined to be non-contagious,</p> <p>“Non-contagious” shall mean fever free (without fever-reducing medicine), improvement in respiratory symptoms (cough, shortness of breath), no vomiting or diarrhea.</p>	<p>Dr. Steve Karns Principal</p> <p>Dr. Michele Hartzell Superintendent</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>N</p>
<p>Notifying coaching staff, families, and the public of cancellation of sports-related</p>	<p><u>Yellow and Green Phase</u></p>	<p>Pat Fordyce Athletic Director</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>N</p>

activities, school closures and other changes in safety protocols	Community letters will be circulated with physical copies and emailed copies to all stakeholders. Information will be placed on the School District website in a place of prominence.	Dr. Steve Karns Principal Dr. Michele Hartzell Superintendent		
Other monitoring and screen practices	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Other Considerations for Student Athletes and Staff

Key Questions

- How will you determine which coaches and other athletic staff are willing/able to return? How will you accommodate staff who are unable or unwilling to return?
- How will you determine which student athletes are willing/able to return? How will you accommodate student athletes who are unable or unwilling return?
- What is the local policy/procedure regarding face coverings for all coaches and athletic staff? What is the policy/procedure for student athletes?
- What special protocols will you implement to protect student athletes and staff at higher risk for severe illness?
- How will you address coaches and other athletic staff who are ill, or who have family members who have become ill?
- How will you manage teams in the event of coaching staff illness? Do you have substitute coaches available?
- Which stakeholders will be trained on these protocols? When and how will the training be provided?

Summary of Responses to Key Questions:

Requirements	Action Steps under Yellow and Green Phase	Lead Individual and Position	Materials, Resources, and/or Supports Needed	PD Required (Y/N)
*Protecting student athletes and coaching staff at higher risk for severe illness	<p><u>Yellow and Green Phase</u></p> <p>Students and coaches who are uncomfortable with participation based upon susceptibility to illness can excuse themselves from participation.</p> <p>Coaches may continue to participate remotely without being asked to resign their position.</p>	<p>Dr. Steve Karns Principal</p> <p>Dr. Michele Hartzell Superintendent</p> <p>Pat Fordyce Athletic Director</p>	None	N

<p>*Use of face coverings by all coaches and athletic staff</p>	<p><u>Yellow and Green Phase</u></p> <p>Athletic staff will wear face coverings at all times while participating in athletic events. Staff may remove the mask to speak at a louder volume if necessary during an event.</p>	<p>Pat Fordyce Athletic Director</p> <p>Tom Pyle Assistant AD</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>N</p>
<p>*Use of face coverings by student athletes as appropriate</p>	<p><u>Yellow and Green Phase</u></p> <p>Student-athletes will utilize face coverings at all times when not directly practicing in an athletic event, this includes on sidelines and benches.</p>	<p>Pat Fordyce Athletic Director</p> <p>Tom Pyle Assistant AD</p> <p>Head Coach</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>N</p>
<p>Unique safety protocols for student athletes with complex needs or other vulnerable individuals</p>	<p><u>Yellow and Green Phase</u></p> <p>Student-athletes with disabilities or particular needs will have protections placed during athletic events in accordance with their individual IEPs or other documentation that has been developed to address their unique needs.</p>	<p>Brianne Hodges Special Education Director</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>N</p>
<p>Management of Coaches and Athletic Staff</p>	<p><u>Yellow and Green Phase</u></p> <p>The Administration and Athletic Director will continue to manage coaches and staff pursuant to usual protocols.</p>	<p>Dr. William Renne Principal</p> <p>Dr. Michele Hartzell Superintendent</p> <p>Pat Fordyce Athletic Director</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>N</p>

Athletics Health and Safety Plan Professional Development

The success of your plan for resuming sports-related activities safely requires all stakeholders to be prepared with the necessary knowledge and skills to implement the plan as intended. For each item that requires staff training, document the following components of your professional learning plan.

- **Topic:** List the content on which the professional development will focus.
- **Audience:** List the stakeholder group(s) who will participate in the learning activity.
- **Lead Person and Position:** List the person or organization that will provide the professional learning.
- **Session Format:** List the strategy/format that will be utilized to facilitate professional learning.
- **Materials, Resources, and or Supports Needed:** List any materials, resources, or support required to implement the requirement.
- **Start Date:** Enter the date on which the first professional learning activity for the topic will be offered.
- **Completion Date:** Enter the date on which the last professional learning activity for the topic will be offered.

Topic	Audience	Lead Person and Position	Session Format	Materials, Resources and/or Supports Needed	Start Date	Completion Date

Athletics Health and Safety Plan Communications

Timely and effective family and caregiver communication about sports-related health and safety protocols and schedules will be critical. Schools should be particularly mindful that frequent communications are accessible in non-English languages and to all caregivers (this is particularly important for children residing with grandparents or other kin or foster caregivers). Additionally, school entities should establish and maintain ongoing communication with local and state authorities to determine current mitigation levels in your community.

Topic	Audience	Lead Person and Position	Session Format	Materials, Resources and/or Supports Needed	Start Date	Completion Date

Athletics Health and Safety Plan Summary: North East School District

Anticipated Launch Date: July 1, 2020

Use these summary tables to provide your local education community with a detailed overview of your Athletics Health and Safety Plan. School entities are required to post this summary on their website. To complete the summary, copy and paste the domain summaries from the Athletics Health and Safety Plan tables above.

Facilities Cleaning, Sanitizing, Disinfecting, and Ventilation

Requirement(s)	Strategies, Policies and Procedures
*Cleaning, sanitizing, disinfecting, and ventilating learning spaces, surfaces, and any other areas used by students (i.e. restrooms, drinking fountains, locker rooms and transportation)	Will utilize all appropriate CDC and DOH guidelines to clean facilities regularly, will provide training to appropriate staff to do the same.

Social Distancing and Other Safety Protocols

Requirement(s)	Strategies, Policies and Procedures
*Protocols for social distancing student athletes and staff throughout all activities, to the maximum extent feasible	Will keep separation between appropriate groups on athletic teams to the extent possible by allowing them to practice in different areas of athletic facilities. Will use group practices where applicable.
*Procedures for serving food at events including team meetings and meals	Will follow all guidelines from the CDC and PA DOH
*Hygiene practices for student athletes and staff including the manner and frequency of hand-washing and other best practices	Will encourage handwashing, use of hand sanitizer, personal clothing and water bottles.

*Posting signs, in highly visible locations, that promote everyday protective measures, and how to stop the spread of germs	Signs will be posted in all areas of the School District that inform on CDC and DOH protocols.
Identifying and restricting non-essential visitors and volunteers	Yellow Phase will restrict attendance at athletic events to 25 individuals per group, with only athletes, coaches, staff, and officials attending. Green Phase will be limited to 250 with only necessary attendees.
Limiting the sharing of materials and equipment among student athletes	Student athletes will each have their own practice equipment and jerseys, as well as personal water bottles. All equipment will be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized subsequent to each event.
Staggering the use of communal spaces (i.e. locker rooms, weight rooms, etc.)	Weight room will be closed during Yellow Phase. Athletes will maintain social distancing while practicing, only one team will use an athletic facility at a time.
Adjusting transportation schedules and practices to create social distance between students	Additional buses and hotel rooms will be provided during phases if necessary to encourage social distancing
Limiting the number of individuals in athletic activity spaces and interactions between groups of student athletes	Teams will be broken into groups during practices in order to facilitate social distancing.
Other social distancing and safety practices	N/A

Monitoring Student Athletes and Staff Health

Requirement(s)	Strategies, Policies and Procedures
*Monitoring student athletes and staff for symptoms and history of exposure	Temperatures will be taken prior to being allowed to compete/coach, will utilize questionnaires for history of exposure.
*Isolating or quarantining student athletes, coaching staff, or visitors if they become sick or demonstrate a history of exposure	Individuals who contract the disease must quarantine for 14 days and will leave the premises immediately when feeling sick.
*Returning isolated or quarantined coaching staff, student athletes, or visitors to school	Individuals will require medical clearances prior to being permitted to return to athletics.
Notifying coaching staff, families and the public of cancellation of sports-related activities, school closures and other changes in safety protocols	The Superintendent and Athletic Director will utilize all physical and electronic methods of promulgating information regarding COVID-19 closures and protocols.

Other Considerations for Student Athletes and Staff

Requirement(s)	Strategies, Policies and Procedures
*Protecting student athletes and coaching staff at higher risk for severe illness	Individuals who are at higher risk will be permitted to excuse themselves from events at their discretion. Virtual participation is permissible.
*Use of face coverings by all coaches and athletic staff	All coaches and staff will utilize facial coverings during events.

*Use of face coverings by student athletes as appropriate	Athletes will utilize facial coverings when not actively participating in events.
Unique safety protocols for student athletes with complex needs or other vulnerable individuals	All appropriate procedures will be followed for students with IEPs and other specific plans to address their unique issues.
Management of Coaches and Athletic Staff	The Superintendent and Athletic Director will continue to supervise all coaches and staff.

Athletics Health and Safety Plan Governing Body

Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **North East School District** reviewed and approved the Athletics Health and Safety Plan on **June 18, 2020**.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

_____ Yes

_____ No

Affirmed on: June 18, 2020

By:

(Signature of Board President)

(Print Name of Board President)

**North East School District
Athletic Department
Participation Waiver for Communicable Diseases Including COVID-19 Recommendations
for Athletic Participation**

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented athletics across the world with a myriad of challenges. The COVID-19 virus is a highly contagious illness that primarily attacks the upper respiratory system. The virus that causes COVID-19 can infect people of all ages. Research from the Centers for Disease Control, among others, has found that while children do get infected by COVID-19, relatively few children with COVID-19 are hospitalized. However, some severe outcomes have been reported in children, and a child with a mild or even asymptomatic case of COVID-19 can spread the infection to others who may be far more vulnerable. While it is not possible to eliminate all risk of furthering the spread of COVID-19, the current science suggests there are many steps schools can take to reduce the risks to students, coaches, and their families.

The NESD will take the necessary precautions and recommendations from the federal, state, and local governments, CDC, PA DOH, as well as the NFHS and PIAA. The NESD realizes the knowledge regarding COVID-19 is constantly changing as new information and treatments become available. These recommendations will be adjusted as needed as new information becomes available in order to decrease the risk of exposure for our staff, students, and spectators.

These recommendations include but may not be limited to:

1. Athletes, Coaches, and Staff will undergo a COVID- 19 health screening prior to any practice, event, or team meeting. The type of screening will be dependent upon the available resources and the Phase level. The purpose is to check for signs and symptoms of COVID-19. It will include a questionnaire and temperature check as needed.
2. Promote healthy hygiene practices such as hand washing, using hand sanitizer, cough in your elbow, avoid touching eyes, nose, face and mouth, no spitting, no gum chewing, No Handshakes/Celebrations (high fives, fist/elbow bumps, chest bumps, hugging)
3. Intensify cleaning, disinfection, and ventilation in all facilities
4. Encourage social distancing through increased spacing, small groups, and limited mixing between groups, if feasible
5. Educate Athletes, Coaches, and Staff on health and safety protocols
6. Anyone who is sick must stay home
7. Plan in place if a student or employee gets sick

8. Regularly communicate and monitor developments with local authorities, employees, and families regarding cases, exposures, and updates to policies and procedures
9. Athletes and Coaches **MUST** provide their own water bottle for hydration. Water bottles must not be shared. **Refill Stations and Water Fountains will NOT BE Initially AVAILABLE!**
10. PPE (gloves, masks, eye protection) will be used as needed and situations warrant, or determined by local/state governments. Face Coverings will not be used for athletes while practicing or competing

WAIVER AND RELEASE

In consideration for my student athlete being permitted to participate in NESD athletics during the 2020-2021 academic year during the COVID-19 pandemic, the undersigned, intending to be legally bound hereby, acknowledges and agrees to the following on behalf of themselves and on behalf of their minor children:

I understand and I acknowledge that my minor student athlete's participation in athletic events during the COVID-19 pandemic may be inherently dangerous. I further acknowledge that even when conducted in an appropriate and proper manner, exposure to COVID-19 during an athletic event could cause injury to my person and/or property as well as the person or property of my minor student athlete. I hereby expressly assume the risk associated with all activities regarding my student athlete's participation in interscholastic athletics, for myself and for my minor child.

I hereby for myself, my minor child, my heirs, administrators, and assigns specifically acknowledge and agree that the following persons and entities, including but not limited to, the School District, its official, agents, representatives, officers, directors, employees, members or affiliates of any person or entity named above (the "Releasees") are not responsible for my safety nor the safety of my minor child and that I am fully responsible for my own safety and for the safety of my minor child during athletic participation, BEING FULLY AWARE OF THE RISKS, CONDITIONS, AND HAZARDS of my minor child's participation in athletic activities and events, I specifically WAIVE, RELEASE, and DISCHARGE, in advance, for myself, my minor child, my heirs, administrators, and assigns, the Releasees above from any and all liability, whether known, or unknown, foreseen or unforeseen, including, but not limited to, damages for death, personal injury, or property damage, from any and all actions, causes of action, claims, damages, demands, injuries, medical expenses, and liability of any nature whatsoever, including reasonable attorney's fees and interest, which may arise out of the negligence or carelessness on the part of the parties or entities mentioned above, or which may arise from the conditions, whether structural, man-made, natural or otherwise, of participation in athletic activities. I agree to accept all responsibilities for the risks, conditions, and hazards which may occur, whether they are known or unknown, whether they are apparent or not, whether they are foreseen or unforeseen on behalf of myself, my minor child, and my heirs.

BY SIGNING BELOW I ACKNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTAND THE RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH MY MINOR CHILD'S PARTICIPATION IN THIS ACTIVITY AND I SPECIFICALLY RELEASE, DISCHARGE, AND WAIVE ALL ABOVE-MENTIONED RELEASEES OF ANY LIABILITY DESCRIBED ABOVE. I HAVE READ THIS WAIVER AND RELEASE, I UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING IT AND IT SIGN IT VOLUNTARILY.

Sport: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Student Athlete: _____ Date: _____

*Parents/Guardians may request a full copy of the NESD Resocialization of Sports Recommendations from the NESD Superintendent and/or Athletic Directors.

